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A-League Round 11 Friday 20th Dec - Sunday 22nd Dec 2013



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**MELBOURNE DERBY
CHRISTMAS
CRACKER**

TWAS THE MATCH BEFORE XMAS

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL!

**MELBOURNE
Victory
F.C.**

Graphics: ANITA MILAS

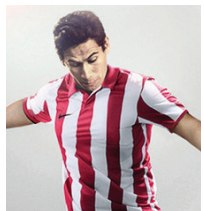
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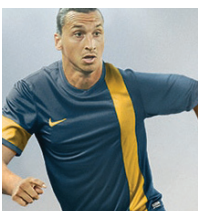
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Ganso



Ibrahimovic



Neymar



Thiago Silva

AUSTRALIA'S 2013 NUMBER ONE NIKE TEAM WEAR SUPPLIER

Melbourne Thrives In The Derby Tradition

By Roy Hay

It is very appropriate that the 2013–14 season of the A-League continues with another Melbourne derby, for there have been many stirring battles between local teams over the years. The Victory versus Heart rivalry has only been going since 2010 but it is already one of the most eagerly awaited clashes by fans of both sides.

Way back in 1920 when what was then called British football, to distinguish it from the local variety, resumed after the First World War the English from Northumberland and Durhams took on the Scots from Melbourne Thistle in a second round match in the Dockerty Cup. The reporter mentioned a record crowd, but did not give a number. There was no score in what was described as ‘a fast clean game’, though R Miller of N and D had the misfortune to break his leg.

The game was played at Middle Park and there were several other matches played that day involving Welsh United, St David’s, Footscray Thistle, Burns plus Albert Park and St Kilda. Usually at least once a season the Scots and the English would field teams drawn from the local clubs and this match drew around 4,000 spectators in 1913.

South Yarra and Prahran were fierce rivals in the inter-war years and carried that on into the 1940s. ‘South Yarra and Prahran are old rivals and the meeting at Fawcner Park will be in the nature of a Derby Day,’ wrote J. O. Wilshaw in the Sporting Globe in April 1950. Moreland and Park Rangers were two clubs which drew on a Scottish heritage and had some monumental battles prior to amalgamating in 1985. A constant problem was access to quality grounds on which to play and it was not till the game got regular access to Olympic Park in the 1950s that large-scale attendance could add the essential element to local derbies—the passion-



Melbourne Victory fans provide more than just directions to a Melbourne Heart fan. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

ate support of legions of opposing fans.

As migrants from Europe poured into Victoria in the 1950s and 1960s and set up their own clubs, sometimes from choice, sometimes following rejection by existing ones, a whole series of new local derbies emerged. When Juventus met JUST for the first time in the top division of Victorian football on 12 April 1952, 5,000 fans turned up and paid £560 to watch the match at Olympic Park. This was the start of an intense rivalry and it began with the game being suspended by the referee after 20 minutes play following an altercation between the teams. Despite this and the fact that the match was not replayed or points awarded Juventus won the league and JUST came third.

By the early 1960s crowd numbers had swelled to over 20,000 for key local derbies. The Victorian Soccer Federation was now in charge of the game in this state. In July 1962 the Juventus versus South Mel-

bourne Hellas match at Olympic Park had a reported 20,000 present and a month later estimates of the attendance at the George Cross against Hellas game ranged up to 25,000. With numbers at Australian Rules football stagnating between 1957 and 1969 the challenge of soccer seemed very real and campaigns against what was portrayed as an imported game intensified. For comparison, average Victorian Football League crowds for home and away games in the late 1950s and 1960s were around 23,000.

In the 1970s following World Cup qualification and the setting up of the National Soccer League the focus of the game shifted from the state to the national and international levels. But local derbies remained important as South Melbourne Hellas and Heidelberg United Alexander fought for bragging rights among the Greek community. JUST, Juventus and George Cross drew their best crowds when in opposition to each other in Mel-

bourne in the NSL. In the 1980s Melbourne Croatia (later Knights) finally joined the national competition and through the 1990s the rivalry with South Melbourne resulted in a number of stirring encounters. In 1990-91 South Melbourne won on penalties after a one-all draw at Olympic Park in the NSL grand final in front of 23,318. Joe Palatides got the equaliser for Hellas with only a couple of minutes left to play after Andrew Marth had put the Knights ahead in 25 minutes. In 1994 the Knights prevailed in a two-leg major semi-final by four goals to three.

Within the various migrant communities there are also inter-club rivalries that have produced teething encounters over the years—Green Gully versus Sunshine George Cross, Preston against Altona Gate, the Knights and St Albans, South Melbourne and Oakleigh, for example. David Hogben still remembers his winning goal against George Cross which helped give

Green Gully the league title in 1983, which was followed by promotion to the NSL. As he told Peter Desira, ‘The one lasting highlight of my career was the Green Gully-George Cross rivalry. ... Those were really the big games of the year. Don’t ever underestimate the power of the derby—everywhere around the world.’

So local derbies always give the fans something special and it has not taken long for Victory versus Heart to become a key game in the football calendar. At the start Victory liked to claim that its main rivalries were with Sydney and Adelaide, but the Melbourne and Victorian public has embraced the local game. Nearly 40,000 were present at the Round 3 match in 2011 and over 40,000 in the two games at Etihad Stadium in the 2012-13 season and the record stands at three wins to Heart, three to Victory and three draws in the nine matches played.



John Aloisi scores the first ever goal in a Melbourne derby. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Robbie Kruse enjoyed scoring in the derby. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

The Melbourne Derbies

Season 2010–11

Derby 1

Heart 2 (Aloisi 10', Terra 56')

Victory 1 (Kruse 35')

AAMI Park 8 October 2010

Crowd: 25,897

Derby 2

Heart 1 (Sibon 17')

Victory 3 (Kruse 12', 28', OG Srhoj 54')

AAMI Park

11 December 2010

Crowd: 23,059

Derby 3

Victory 2 (Allsopp 11', Hernández 30')

Heart 2 (Aloisi 45+2', 51')

Etihad Stadium 22 January 2011

Crowd: 32,231

Season 2011-12

Derby 4

Victory 0

Heart 0

Etihad Stadium 22 October 2011

Crowd: 39,309

Derby 5

Heart 3 (Thompson (37', 39', Terra 62')

Victory 2 (Thompson 21', Hernández 90+2')

AAMI Park

23 December 2011

Crowd: 26,579

Derby 6

Heart 0

Victory 0

AAMI Park

4 February 2012

Crowd: 26,396

Season 2012–13

Derby 7

Victory 1 (Rojas 24')

Heart 2 (Williams 14', MacAllister 45+2')

Etihad Stadium 5 October 2012

Crowd: 42,032

Derby 8

Heart 1 (Fred 81')

Victory 2 (Rojas 67', Thompson 90+2')

AAMI Park

22 December 2012

Crowd: 26,457

Derby 9

Victory 2 (Thompson 29', Milligan 55')

Heart 1 (Williams 72')

Etihad Stadium 2 February 2013

Crowd: 41,203

Season 2013–14

Derby 10

Victory 0

Heart 0

Etihad Stadium 12 October 2013

Crowd: 45,202

Leading Derby Scorers

3 Robbie Kruse (Victory)

John Aloisi (Heart)

Archie Thompson (Victory)

2 Marco Rojas (Victory)

Matt Thompson (Heart)

Alex Terra (Heart)

Carlos Hernández (Victory)

David Williams (Heart)

1 Danny Allsopp (Victory)

Dylan MacAllister (Heart)

Gerald Sibon (Heart)

Fred (Heart)

Mark Milligan (Victory)

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Edwards sacked by Perth Glory

A-League club Perth Glory have sacked coach Alistair Edwards following a dispute with the club's senior players.

Glory owner Tony Sage warned contracts would be torn up if crisis talks failed to solve the dispute between Edwards and the club's players, led by Jacob Burns.

The two parties fell out over the coach's perceived favouritism of his two sons, Ryan and Cameron. Either Edwards or the 35-year-old Burns were expected to be forced out, with the pair's relationship untenable.

But player power has won out in Western Australia, with Edwards paying the ultimate price just 10 games into his three-year deal.

"It is extremely disappointing that this has played out in such a public manner, however as a club we needed to be considered in our analysis and prompt in our response," Sage said.

"Our review of what occurred on Friday and subsequently in the media, was not conducted to apportion blame or seek recriminations, but rather to identify the cause of the issues and to identify and to seek

to implement a range of measures to improve performance and player management/best practice.

"In my view the measures were capable of being successfully implemented, which would ultimately improve the club. Alistair was unwilling to implement each of the measures required of him by Perth Glory, and as such he is no longer employed at Perth Glory.

"I am disappointed in this outcome, as we tried at all times to find a workable compromise, but ultimately the best interests of the players, staff, fans, sponsors and business partners of Perth Glory Football Club are my primary concern, and always will be.

"I thank Alistair for his contribution to Perth Glory Football Club and wish him all the best for the future."

Perth lie seventh in the A-League table, just one point off the play-off places.

KENNY'S THE MAN AFTER PERTH HIT LOWE POINT

With Alistair Edwards out the door, online bookmaker sportsbet.com.au has opened betting

on who'll be the next permanent manager of Perth Glory.

The clear favourite as betting commences is Kenny Lowe, who's priced at \$2.25, ahead of former Glory defender and current Bayswater City coach Chris Coyne (\$8.00), Sydney United manager Mark Rudan and current Western Sydney Wanderers assistant Ante Milicic (both at \$9.00).

Current skipper Jacob Burns is unlikely to go from a spot on the far end of the bench to the pointy end, priced at \$41 to replace Edwards. Others with connections to the Glory that are in the market include Graham Normanton (\$10), Gareth Naven (\$13), current marquee signing William Gallas (\$13), Dave Mitchell (\$21), Ian Ferguson (\$34), Bernd Stange (\$41) and Mich d'Avray (\$51).

"There's a host of options with connections to the club but the highly rated Kenny Lowe is in the box seat at \$2.25. One thing we do know is that club owner Tony Sage looks unlikely to swap the suit for the shin pads, he's the rank outsider at \$251 to become the manager," sportsbet.com.au's Ben Hawes said.

Despite now being in the hunt for a new gig, the likes of Andre Villas Boas, Martin Jol or Paolo Di Canio heading West are at the long odds of \$67.

The Glory remain \$14 shots with sportsbet.com.au to win the A-League this season, with Adelaide (\$18), Wellington (\$14) and the Heart (\$41) the only other teams bigger odds.

Next Permanent Perth Glory Coach

\$2.25	Kenny Lowe
\$8.00	Chris Coyne
\$9.00	Mark Rudan, Ante Milicic
\$10	Graham Normanton
\$13	Gareth Naven, Scott Miller, William Gallas, John Kosmina
\$21	Dave Mitchell
\$23	Aurelio Vidmar
\$26	Pim Verbeek, Holger Osieck, Miron Bleiberg
\$34	Ian Ferguson
\$41	Bernd Stange, Jacob Burns
\$51	Mich d'Avray
\$67	Andre Villas Boas, Martin Jol, Paolo Di Canio, Steve Clarke
\$251	Tony Sage



Unbeknownst to anyone at the time, Alistair Edwards takes charge of his last match for Perth Glory against Melbourne Victory last weekend. Photo: LIVE PIXEL

FFA name Teams of the Decades to celebrate 50th Anniversary of FIFA Membership

Football Federation Australia (FFA) acknowledged the heroes of yesterday by naming its Teams of the Decade in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of FIFA Membership at a Hall of Fame function in Melbourne.

From Johnny Warren through to Mark Schwarzer, Julie Dolan to Sarah Walsh, Australia's greatest footballers and coaches covering 19 FIFA World Cup campaigns, 8 FIFA World Cup Finals appearances, 8 Olympic Games and countless milestone moments were acknowledged in eight Teams of the Decade:

"Football's influence on Australian Society is undergoing significant growth in social, economic and political terms but today we embrace and celebrate our proud history and honour the pioneers who went before us," said Football Federation Australia Chief Executive Officer David Gallop.

"We are proud of our multicultural foundations and the footballers selected in the Team's of the Decade represent these foundations of not only football but Australian Society. Forget about a dividing line between "old" and "new" - it's all one football history and one football story.

"Put simply, football is the face of Australia in all its diversity. No other sport can match football's universal appeal and accessibility and as the Asian Century unfolds, this undeniable truth will only become more entrenched."

"We must continue to drive football into the future but at all times remember our past and today we salute the men and women who have been selected in the Teams of the Decade."



The star studded line up includes: John Aloisi, Ron Corry, Jim Fraser, Sunni Hughes, Julie Murray, Alex Tobin, Eddie Krncevic, Melissa Barbieri, John Kosmina, Jack Reilly, Theresa Deas, Alan Davidson, Harry Kewell. Front row: Jimmy Rooney, Rale Rasic, Moya Dodd, Julie Dolan, Lisa De Vanna

Matildas Team of the Decade

1979 - 1989

First ever A international, OFC Oceania Cup 1983, 1986 & 1989

Formation *4-3-3
Coach: Fred Robbins

1 Theresa Deas (GK), 2 Rose Van Bruinessen (D), 3 Andrea Martin (D), 4 Joanne Millman (D), 5 Michelle Sawyers (D), 6 Sue Monteath (M), 7 Julie Dolan (M) CAPTAIN, 8 Cindy Heydon (M), 9 Sandra Brentnall (F), 10 Renaye Iserief (F), 11 Leanne Priestley (F)

1990 - 1999

FIFA World Cup campaigns 1991, 1995 & 1999, FIFA World Cup finals 1995 & 1999

Formation *4-3-3
Coach: Greg Brown

1 Tracey Wheeler (GK), 2 Traci Bartlett (D), 3 Alison Forman (D) CAPTAIN, 4 Sonia Gegenhuber (D), 5 Anissa Tann (D), 6 Moya Dodd (M), 7 Sharon Black (F), 8 Lisa Casagrande (MF), 9 Linda Hughes (F), 10 Julie Murray (F), 11 Carol Vinson (M)

2000 - 2013

FIFA World Cup campaigns 2003, 2007 & 2011, FIFA World Cup finals 2003, 2007 & 2011, AFC Asian Cup 2007 and 2011, Olympic Games 2000 & 2004

Formation *4-4-2
Coach: Tom Sermanni

1 Melissa Barbieri (GK), 2 Collette McCallum (D), 3 Clare Polkinghorn (D), 4 Cheryl Salisbury (D) CAPTAIN, 5 Dianne Alagich (D), 6 Sally Shipard (M), 7 Heather Garriock (M), 8 Joanne Peters (M), 9 Sarah Walsh (F), 10 Kate Gill (F), 11 Lisa De Vanna (F)

Socceroo Team of the Decade

1963 - 1970

FIFA World Cup campaigns in 1965 & 1969

Formation *3-4-3
Coach: Joe Vlasits

1 Ron Corry (GK), 2 George Keith (D), 3 Alan Marnock (D), 4 Stan Ackerley (D), 5 Pat Hughes (MF), 6 Bill Votjek (MF), 7 John Watkiss (MF), 8 Les Scheinflug (MF), 9 Tom McColl (F), 10 John Warren (F) CAPTAIN, 11 Alan Westwater (F)

1971 - 1980

FIFA World Cup campaigns in 1973 & 1977; FIFA World Cup Finals 1974

Formation *4-4-2
Coach: Rale Rasic

1 Jack Reilly (GK), 2 Doug Utjesenovic (D), 3 Manfred Schaefer (D), 4 Peter Wilson (D) CAPTAIN, 5 Col Curran (D), 6 Jimmy Mackay (MF), 7 Jimmy Rooney (MF), 8 Ray Richards (MF), 9 Ray Baartz (MF), 10 Adrian Alston (F), 11 Atti Abonyi (F)

1981 - 1989

FIFA World Cup campaigns in 1981, 1985 and 1989; Bicentennial Gold Cup 1988; Olympic Games 1988

Formation *4-4-2
Coach: Frank Arok

1 Terry Greedy (GK), 2 Alan Davidson (D), 3 Tony Henderson (D), 4 Charlie Yankos (D), 5 Graham Jennings (D), 6 Joe Watson (MF), 7 Murray Barnes (MF), 8 Oscar Crino (MF), 9 Zarko Odzakov (MF), 10 John Kosmina (F) CAPTAIN, 11 Eddie Krncevic (F)

1990 - 1999

FIFA World Cup campaigns in 1993 & 1997; Confederations Cup 1997; Olympic Games 1992 & 1996

Formation *4-3-3
Coach: Eddie Thompson

1 Mark Bosnich (GK), 2 Mehmet Durakovic (D), 3 Milan Ivanovic (D), 4 Alex Tobin (D) CAPTAIN, 5 Stan Lazaridis (D), 6 Robbie Slater (MF), 7 Paul Okon (MF), 8 Ned Zelic (MF), 9 Aurelio Vidmar (D), 10 Mark Viduka (D), 11 Frank Farina (D)

2000 - 2013

FIFA World Cup campaigns in 2001, 2005, 2009 and 2013; FIFA World Cup Finals 2006 & 2010; Confederations Cup 2001 and 2005; Olympic Games 2000, 2004 & 2008.

Formation *4-3-3
Coach: Guus Hiddink

1 Mark Schwarzer (GK), 2 Tony Vidmar (D), 3 Lucas Neill (D) CAPTAIN, 4 Craig Moore (D), 5 Scott Chipperfield (D), 6 Luke Wilshire (MF), 7 Marco Bresciano (MF), 8 Brett Emerton (MF), 9 Tim Cahill (F), 10 John Aloisi (F), 11 Harry Kewell (F)

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SCOREBOARD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	10	8	0	2	19	7	12	24
2 Western Sydney Wanderers	10	5	4	1	11	7	4	19
3 Sydney FC	10	6	0	4	13	12	1	18
4 Melbourne Victory	10	4	3	3	14	10	4	15
5 Newcastle Jets	10	4	3	3	11	11	0	15
6 Central Coast Mariners	9	3	4	2	9	11	-2	13
7 Perth Glory	10	3	3	4	10	12	-2	12
8 Adelaide United	10	2	3	5	16	17	-1	9
9 Wellington Phoenix	9	0	4	5	9	15	-6	4
10 Melbourne Heart	10	0	4	6	8	18	-10	4

ROUND TEN

Melbourne Victory 2 (Traore 36', Finkler 89')
Perth Glory 0
Crowd: 17,008 @ AAMI Park

Adelaide United 4 (Djite 25, Ferreira 40, Cirio 54, Jeronimo 90)
Central Coast Mariners 0
Crowd: 7785

Sydney FC 2 (Del Piero 43, Despotovic 45)
Melbourne Heart 1 (Mifsud 75)

Wellington Phoenix 1 (Hernandez 47' (pen))
Brisbane Roar 2 (Smith 37', Franjic 74') @ AAMI Park

Newcastle Jets 0
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Bridge 33')
At Hunter Stadium
Crowd: 16,634

TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 06Adam Taggart (Jets)
James Troisi (Victory)
Besart Berisha (Roar)
- 04Alessandro Del Piero (SFC)
Osama Malik (Adelaide)
Henrique (Roar)
David Williams (Heart)
Matthew Smith (Roar)
- 03Archie Thompson (Victory)
Sidnei (Perth Glory)
Marcos Flores (Mariners)
Jeronimo Neumann (Adelaide Utd)
Ryo Nagai (Glory)
Joel Chianese (Sydney FC)
Ranko Despotovic (Sydney)
Sergio Olivare Cirio (AUF)
Ivan Franjic (Roar)
Andrea Migliorini (Heart)



Sydney FC's ADP moves into equal second after scoring against Melbourne Heart.

THIS WEEK	Round 11	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri Dec 20	Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets	TBC	7:00 PM	8:00 PM
	Sat Dec 21	Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sun Dec 22	Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC	Westpac Stadium	7:00 PM	5:00 PM
	Sun Dec 22	Perth Glory v Adelaide United	nib Stadium	4:00 PM	7:00 PM
	Mon Dec 23	West Sydney Wanderers v CC Mariners	Parramatta Stadium	7:00 PM	7:00 PM
NEXT WEEK	Round 12	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Thu Dec 26	Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Allianz Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Fri Dec 27	Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sat Dec 28	Melbourne Victory v West Sydney Wanderers	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sun Dec 29	Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
	Tue Dec 31	Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory	Bluetongue Stadium	6:00 PM	6:00 PM

AGAINST ALL ODDS	
A-League Title 2013/14	
Brisbane Roar	3.20
Wanderers	4.25
Melbourne Victory	5.50
Sydney FC	8.00
Central Coast Mariners	8.50
Newcastle Jets	10.0
Perth Glory	13.0
Adelaide United	17.0
Wellington Phoenix	41.0
Melbourne Heart	51.0

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 10

Compiled by Nick Aimies



Glen Moss (Wellington Phoenix)
The All Whites keeper wasn't tested early as the Phoenix neutralised the league leaders, but some lax defending from a free-kick left Moss unable to prevent the Roar taking the lead through Matt Smith. He did everything possible to keep his side in the contest, including a save from the penalty spot after an over-zealous challenge from Riera, but was ultimately undone by Franjic's wonder strike.

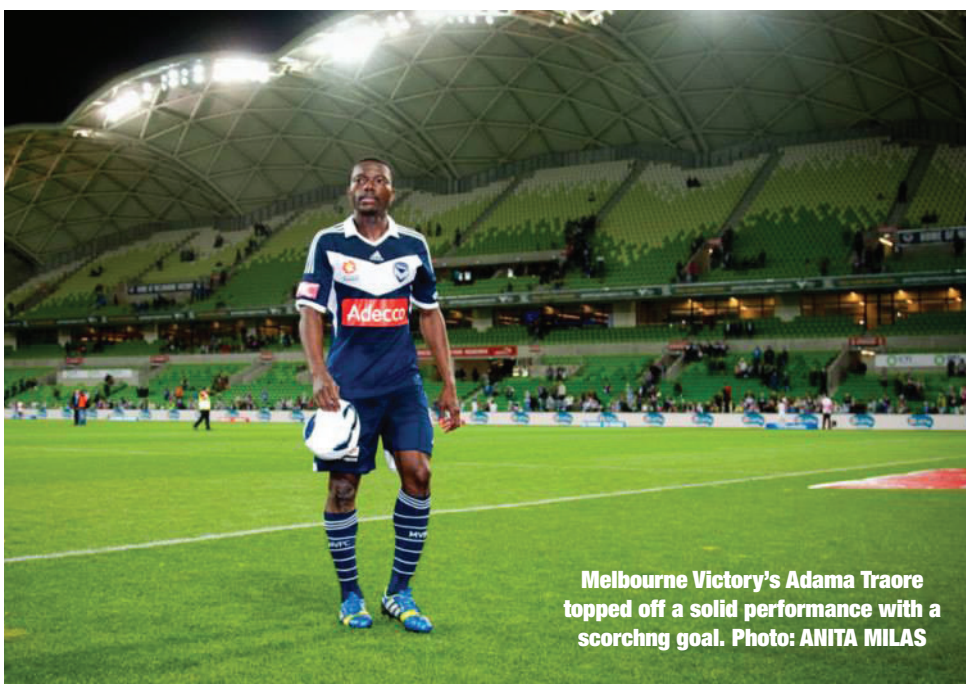
Jerome Polenz (Western Sydney Wanderers)
Assured in defence and a viable attacking threat, Polenz perfectly epitomises the modern full-back. Saturday was no exception as the German made the right flank his own at Hunter Stadium with his dynamic runs whilst thoroughly

negating the unimpressive James Brown.
Matthew Spiranovic (Western Sydney Wanderers)
The young defender made headlines earlier in the season purely for displacing club captain Michael Beauchamp, but the number 13 has cemented his place after a series of strong performances at the back. Once again he was superb in the heart of defence, clearing his lines with minimal fuss and exhibiting his ability on the ball by playing out from defence.

Matt Smith (Brisbane Roar)
When the Brisbane Roar attack was looking impotent against the Phoenix defence the goal-scoring burden fell upon Matt Smith, who was on hand to bundle home Thomas Broich's free kick to put his team ahead. The skipper then

helped his defence withstand the likes of Huysegems, Hernandez and Brookie to maintain their lead at the top of the ladder.
Adama Traore (Melbourne Victory)
It was another week where we wish that Adama Traore was eligible for the Socceroos after the Ivorian stamped his mark upon the game on Friday night against the Glory. In addition to opening the scoring with a thunderous strike the left back was at his marauding best on a night where those ahead of him lacked a cutting edge.

Matt McKay (Brisbane Roar)
The Socceroos midfielder was the driving force behind his side's attack, with his tireless running and impressive passing constantly opening up opportunities for his teammates. As long as either he or Thomas Broich is firing don't



Melbourne Victory's Adama Traore topped off a solid performance with a scorchng goal. Photo: ANITA MILAS

expect Mike Mulvey's side to be displaced from the top of the ladder any time soon.
Marcelo Carrusca (Adelaide United)
Josep Gombau can breathe a little easier this week after the Reds put Central Coast to the sword at Coopers Stadium on Saturday night. Carrusca was one of the architects of the champions' destruction, eclipsing his compatriot Marcos Flores as the eminent Argentine on the field.
Steven Lustica (Adelaide United)
The second of an Adelaide trio in our team of the week, Lustica continues to grow as a fine midfielder alongside his foreign teammates. He was one of the best on park against the Mariners, helping stifle the opposition attack with Isaia as well as launching himself forward in search of a goal. He may not

have found the back of the net this week but if he can continue to produce this level of performance his time will come.
Ivan Franjic (Brisbane Roar)
One of the most impressive transformations of the season, Ivan Franjic continues to repay Mike Mulvey for allowing him to play further upfield. History repeated itself on Saturday in Wellington as once again the converted right back scored the winner, this time bettering his effort in round 1 with a sublime left-footed curler past Glen Moss.
Mark Bridge (Newcastle Jets)
Some players may not like scoring against their former clubs, but Mark Bridge his not one of them. The Wanderers striker made it six goals in eleven matches against the Jets since leaving for Sydney,

catching the opposition defence napping to head home past Mark Birighitti to break his side's three game winless streak.
Sergio Cirio (Adelaide United)
The Spaniard was definitely the player of the round for his role in Adelaide's 4-nil demolition of the Mariners and more than likely will be giving Storm Roux nightmares for weeks to come after an electric performance. The number nine set up his side's first two goals for Bruce Djite and Fabio Ferreira before grabbing a well-deserved goal of his own after pouncing upon Liam Reddy's error.

Victory down Glory in Dominant Display

Melbourne Victory



2

Perth Glory



0

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 2 (Traore 36', Finkler 89')

Perth Glory 0

Crowd: 17,008 @ AAMI Park

By Andrew Barisha

Goals by Adama Traore and Gui Finkler secured the Melbourne Victory a much needed 2-0 win against Perth Glory at AAMI Park on Friday night.

The home side dominated the match, but it took until the 36th minute for left-back Traore to open the scoring, before Finkler settled the game with a minute of normal time to go.

Kevin Muscat's men came into the game on the back of a disappointing loss to the Newcastle Jets last weekend, while the Glory pulled out an impressive performance in its 4-2 over the Wellington Phoenix.

Muscat was still without Archie Thompson, who failed to recover in time for the game, but brought in Jason Geria to replace Rashid Mahazi.

As for the Glory, Alistair Edwards was facing injury crisis and pulled a surprise by putting club captain Jacob Burns on the bench.

The game started like many expected with the home side dominating possession, and the visitors happy to sit back and play on the break.

The defensive structure of the Glory restricted the Victory to taking pot shots from distance. The home side's fire power of Kosta Barbarouses, James Troisi and Mitch Nichols all took their chances, but failed to break open the game.

It took the Victory's marauding left back, Traore to relax the home crowd when he struck a sweet shot six minutes from the break.

Receiving the ball from Nichols on the edge of the box, Traore steadied himself, before launching a dipping strike which left Glory 'keeper Danny Vukovic with no chance.

In the second half, the Victory



Victory players congratulate Gui Finkler on his well taken strike to put the game beyond doubt.

Melbourne Victory line-up: Coe (GK), Contreras, Traore, Milligan (C), Broxham, Barbarouses, Pain (Finkler) , Troisi, Nichols (Nabbout), Leijer, Geria (Mahazi)

Yellow Cards: Contreras, barbarouses

Red Cards: None

Subs: Thomas, Ansell, Finkler, Nabbout, Mahazi

Perth Glory line-up: Vukovic (GK), Clisby,R. Edwards, Nagai, Maclaren, McGarry, Harold (De Silva) , Makeche (Edwards), Thwaite (C), Davies,Woodcock

Yellow cards: Davies, Woodcock, McGarry

Red Cards: None

Subs: Duncan, O'Neill, C.Edwards, Burns, De Silva

found itself with time and space, as the Glory pushed forward to find an equaliser.

The Glory almost got a golden chance to find the net, but Pablo Contreras pulled out a superb challenge on Jamie Maclaren, who was zoning in on goal.

On the other side of the pitch, Barbarouses had his shot saved by Vukovic, before Troisi had his own chance saved again.

The Glory's best chance came in

the 80th minute when Ryan Edwards – Alistair Edwards' son – shot over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

Try as the might, the Glory tried to put the hosts under pressure, but the Victory were comfortable in possession and constantly found space across the pitch.

All hopes for the Glory were over in the last minute of normal time, when Finkler played a neat one-two with Troisi before calmly

rocketing a low ball passed Vukovic to settle the game.

The win sees the Victory jump up to third on 15 points, but will have to wait until the end of the week-end to know where it stands.

The Glory remains seventh on the table, as it faces eighth placed Adelaide United next Sunday. The Victory has an enthralling clash as it faces the Heart in the Melbourne derby on Saturday night.

Victory	Match Stats	Glory
31	Tackles	24
23	Total Shots	11
608	Total Passes	312
65.1%	Possession	35.7%
9	Corners	7
0	Offsides	2
10	Fouls committed	14

Man of the Match
Mitch Nichols (Victory)



Adama Traore scores a rocket and Kostas Barbarouses joins in on the party. Photo: LIVE PIXEL



Stacks on! A human pyramid of Victory players forms after Gui Finkler sealed the deal.



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Wellington Phoenix



1

Brisbane Roar



2

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 1
(Hernandez 48')
Brisbane Roar 2
(Smith 37', Franjic 74')

Wellington Phoenix: Glen Moss, Manny Muscat, Ben Sigmund, Andrew Durante, Vince Lia, Albert Riera, Louis Fenton, Kenny Cunningham (Jason Hicks 71'), Carlos Hernandez, Stein Huysegems, Jeremy Brockie (Paul Ifill 68').

Unused Subs:
Lewis Italiano, Michael Boxall, Josh Brindell-South

Brisbane Roar: Michael Theo, Corey Brown, Matt Smith, James Donachie, Ivan Franjic (Kwame Yeboah 88'), Jack Hingert, Matt McKay, Liam Miller (Dimitrios Petratos 72'), Luke Brattan, Thomas Broich, Besart Berisha.

Unused Subs:
Matt Acton, Diogo Ferreira, Henrique

Leaders Roar Compound 'Nix's Woes

By Joe Gallagher

Another week passes and the same old narrative continues at Wellington Phoenix.

Saturday's 2-1 loss to the Brisbane Roar extends their winless start to the season, only the misfortune of Melbourne Heart keeping them from the table's cellar.

They're nine points away from the playoffs and face a tricky month in the A-League as coach Ernie Merrick continues his hunt for an elusive maiden win as boss.

"It is getting more and more difficult but I still feel there's plenty of time to get in the finals. But we've got to win games, and that means we've got to score goals," he said at full-time.

"Up front we were creating chances, getting strikes on target. But there was always someone in the way."

These comments evoke a particular sense of déjà vu, as the New Zealanders dominated their more loftily-placed visitors for much of the match before being undone by a moment of brilliance from one of Brisbane's standouts this season, Ivan Franjic.

It is perhaps a measure of Brisbane's credentials this term that they secured maximum points in a difficult away fixture in which they were shaded. Winning tough is the type of mettle from which champions are made.

Meanwhile, victory of any kind is proving hard to come in Wellington. Lucklessness has bred anxiety, nerves and frustration, personified by their most glaring miss after 25 minutes.

The tireless Stein Huysegems found space to fire a shot which Michael Theo parried right to the feet of Jeremy Brockie six yards out.

Brockie, Wellington's top goal scorer last season. A tap-in. Many had already started celebrating. But confidence is a strange thing in



Kenny Cunningham (Phoenix) is upended in the box to earn a penalty.

football, and the All Whites striker – fresh from a penalty miss against Mexico and a recent injury – blazed over when a goal seemed the only feasible option.

His misery was compounded ten minutes later when Roar skipper Matt Smith stole in at the back post to prod past Glen Moss. It was a cross that demanded diffusion by Wellington's Ben Sigmund, but typified the type of fundamental defending that has eluded the Phoenix at key times this season.

Huysegems might have scored earlier had his effort not been saved by Theo's legs. He might also have squared it to a wide open Brockie but it's moments like these at both

ends of the pitch which have seriously let down Wellington this season and again conspired to keep them scoreless at the break.

Merrick's half-time team talk would have urged his side to stay calm and take their chances when they came, but they were awarded an opportunity to equalise perhaps undeservedly minutes after the interval.

Costa Rican Kenny Cunningham broke into the area before tumbling theatrically under questionable contact by Jack Hingert. This, a dive, scarcely warranted a spot kick for countryman Carlos Hernandez, who duly obliged from 12 yards and the Phoenix were level.

Many in attendance would have expected Wellington to go on and secure victory but the concession of a dubious equaliser acted as a catalyst for Brisbane to up their game.

They were gifted a golden opportunity when Albert Riera felled Hingert – again whether a penalty was deserved was unclear, but perhaps some good karma for the latter – and Besart Berisha stepped up to the spot.

The final half dozen words of that sentence are terrifying enough for the Yellow Fever. Berisha had scored in five of his last six outings against Wellington and was looking in ominous form. But his spot kick

was saved by Moss and Matt McKay fired wide from the rebound.

Berisha had already spurned a golden opportunity when he poked wide in the first half, so Wellington could be forgiven for thinking this might have been their day.

But with fifteen minutes to play Franjic – who also netted a stoppage-time winner in Wellington in round one – cut inside Manny Muscat and fired an excellent curling left-footed shot past the outstretched Moss.

Wellington's slumped bodies at the final whistle said it all. They now face a congested Christmas period which sees them play four times in 14 days.

But a packed schedule is precisely what Merrick wants. "I'm glad," he admits. "The more games, bringing them on. I think the boys are up for it, and they fought right until the end there."

Conversely, Mike Mulvey was thrilled post-match. "We've got a lot of improvement in us, which is really good," he said. "We're the only team that's won here this year and we've done it twice. It's quite a feat."

"That's a great three points for us today. I thought our performance was deserving of it to tell you the truth."

The league-leaders are back home in a week's time to face Newcastle Jets.

Match Stats		
38	Tackles	25
20	Total Shots	13
346	Total Passes	554
39.4%	Possession	60%
10	Corners	1
3	Offsides	2
15	Fouls committed	11

Man of the Match
Ivan Franjic (Roar)



Wellington's Vince Lia tangles for supremacy with Brisbane Roar's Matt McKay



Paul Ifill (Phoenix) slides in to scoop the ball from under Jack Hingert (Roar).

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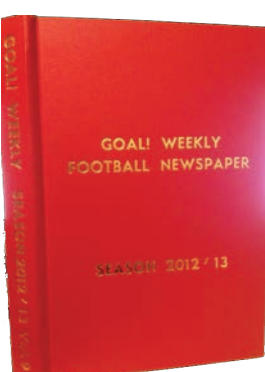
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Adelaide United



4

Central Coast



0

Match Details

Adelaide United FC 4 (Djite 25', Ferreira 39', Cirio 54', Neumann 90')
Central Coast Mariners FC 0
 Coopers Stadium, Adelaide
 Attendance: 7,785
 Referee: Ben Williams

Central Coast Mariners FC: 12. Liam Reddy (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Marcel Seip, 7. John Hutchinson (C), 8. Nick Montgomery (17. Anthony Caceres 81'), 9. Mitchell Duke (21. Mile Sterjovski 59'), 10. Marcos Flores (19. Matt Simon 59'), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 15. Storm Roux, 16. Trent Sainsbury
Substitutes Not Used: 1. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 6. Brent Griffiths
Yellow Cards: Flores, Hutchinson, McBreen, Rose
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 1. Eugene Galekovic (Gk), 4. Jon Mckain, 5. Osama Malik, 8. Isaias, 9. Sergio Cirio, 10. Marcelo Carrusca (19. Jake Barker-Daish 82'), 11. Bruce Djite (25. Ryan Kitto 75'), 13. Steven Lustica, 18. Michael Zullo, 21. Tarek Elrich, 22. Fabio Ferreira (7. Jeronimo Neumann 46')
Substitutes Not Used: 30. John Hall (Gk), 3. Nigel Boogaard
Yellow Cards: Isaias, Zullo
Red Cards: Nil

Reds United On All Fronts To Defeat Champs

By Matt Mays

Adelaide United struck four past the Mariners on Friday night at Cooper's Stadium, picking up their first win since the opening day of the season and their first win against the defending champions in twelve games.

Djite poked home nicely midway through the first half before Ferreira doubled the advantage before the break. Cirio stole the ball expertly of the keeper to poke in number three and even Neumann continued his impressive run at home with a fourth just before the death.

The win still leaves Adelaide down in 8th place, while the champions Central Coast are now 11 points off the pace.

The build up to the game was marred with the clash between Red's boss Gombau and an Adelaide soccer journalist after what the boss called 'unfair pressure.' And the Red fans seemed to be on the side of the Spaniard with a 'In Josep We Trust' flag prepared and shown just before kick off.

But despite the intimidating atmosphere, the champions should have been a goal up early doors but McBreen sky higher a tap in from 6 metres and was left red faced.

The Reds responded though with what they have been doing all season. Plenty of high quality possession but what was lacking was the end product. Ferreira found the side netting after finding himself one-on-one, but Djite saved his blushes moments later.

After a smart run with the ball on the left, Cirio crossed the ball to the front post where Djite poked it home beautifully to give the Adelaide a deserved lead.

After the goal came a really touching moment. The players embraced Gombau on the touchline after the goal which shows the team togetherness is apparent.

The champs seemed startled and



Fabio Ferreira is jubilant after scoring Adelaide United's second goal of the afternoon.

picked up two yellows for dissent in quick succession. McBreen and former Adelaide boy Flores the victims.

With half time looming though, the Reds sent the Red Army into dreamland.

Just five minutes before the break Ferriera pounced onto a Cirio through ball and placed the ball calmly through Reddy's legs. It was his last influence in the game though as he was substituted at the break due to a groin strain.

McBreen gave the Reds a scare just before the interval but his tame shot rolled wide after he smartly

beat the offside trap.

The Reds needed to kill this game off as they have previously given away leads far too many times this season. They sealed the deal in strange circumstances.

Galekovic punted the ball out from his area into the Mariner's final third where Cirio ran onto and boxed keep Ruddy right on his touchline. But just as the keeper seemed to be protecting the ball out for a goal kick, the Spaniard poked his foot around his feet, tapping the ball through his legs and went on to tap the ball home, leaving Reddy very red indeed.

Replays showed it very hard to distinguish if the whole ball was over the line, but Adelaide certainly didn't care. The game was won and relief could be felt around Cooper's.

The Mariners created very little from then on and Argentine Jeronimo (subbed on for Ferreira at half time) rubbed salt into the wounds in the final moments with a calm finish into the far corner after a perfectly timed through ball.

The goal put the cherry on cake and completed a topsy turvy week for all concerned at Adelaide United, and Gombau was impressed with

the way his players coped with the way the players responded.

"Today is a good day because we got the result and I am satisfied, but tomorrow this is finished and we need to start thinking about the next game against Perth because we are not in a good position on the table and we need to work game by game."

"I'm very happy to win, very happy for the players and the fans more than anybody," Gombau said.

"They (the fans) trusted in me, they supported the team, the players have been working very hard."



Bruce Djite (obscured) manages to steer the ball home and past goalkeeper Liam Reddy



There's no place like home: Former Red Marcos Flores gets a yellow cards for his troubles.

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FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Skrill Premier Round 24 Grimsby v Kidderminster 6:40am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 17 Preview
Show 8:15pm 1st Airing
Capital One Cup Quarter-Final
Highlights Show 10:50pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Bundesliga Round 17 Frankfurt v Augsburg 6:25am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 17
Celtic v Hearts 11:10pm LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 22
QPR v Leicester 11:15pm LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Sky Bet Championship Round
22 Birmingham v Nottm Forest 1:55am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 22 Millwall v Middlesbrough 4:25am LIVE

Scottish Premiership Round 10
Inverness v Aberdeen 4:30am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 17 Dortmund v Hertha Berlin 8:20am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 17 Wdrer Bremen v Leverkusen 10:10am 1st Airing

MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER

Bundesliga Round 17 Monchengladbach v Wolfsburg 1:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 17 Stuttgart v Bayern Munich 3:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 17 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 22 Highlights Show 9:50pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

Scottish Premiership Round 17
Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER

Skrill Premier Round 25 Cambridge v Braintree 10:55pm LIVE

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Scottish Premiership Round 18 St Johnstone v Celtic 1:55am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 23 Blackpool v Leeds 4:10am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 23
Nottm Forest v QPR 6:25am LIVE

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Scottish Premiership Round 18
Highlights Show 12:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Mid-Season Review Highlights Show 1:00pm 1st Airing

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Skrill Premier Round 26 Hereford v Forest Green 7:45am 1st Airing
Scottish Premiership Round 19
Inverness v Celtic 11:25pm LIVE

MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Sky Bet Championship Round 24
Watford v QPR 1:55am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 24 Highlights Show 10:40pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Scottish League 1 Round 18 Dunfermline v Rangers 6:40am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 19 Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY

Skrill Premier Round 27 Barnet v Luton 10:55pm LIVE



SBS ONE

Friday December 20th
7:00 pm A-League Live – Round 11:
Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets

Every Sunday
4:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Every Monday
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday
8:30 pm Thursday FC
11:00 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

SBS TWO

Every Monday
8:40 pm A-League Highlights Show

Every Tuesday
5:00 pm A-League Highlights Show



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

All times AEDT
All games LIVE unless stated

WEEK 19

Sat Dec 21 Liverpool v Cardiff
11.35 pm Fox 1

Sun Dec 22 Manchester United v West Ham
1.50 am Fox 1

Sun Dec 22 Fulham v Manchester City
1.50 am Fox 3

Sun Dec 22 Crystal Palace v Newcastle
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 22 Stoke v Aston Villa
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 22 Sunderland v Norwich
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 22 West Brom v Hull
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Mon Dec 23 Southampton v Tottenham
12.20 am Fox 1

Mon Dec 23 Swansea v Everton
2.50 am Fox 1

Tue Dec 24 Arsenal v Chelsea
6.45 am Fox 1

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

ALL GAMES LIVE ON FOX 1

Fri Dec 20 Roar v Jets 7.30 pm
Sat Dec 21 Heart v Victory 7.30 pm
Sat Dec 21 Perth v Adelaide 9.45 pm
Sun Dec 22 Wellington v SFC 5.00 pm
Mon Dec 23 Wanderers v Mariners 7pm

FOX SPORTS FC

Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

SUNDAY SHOOT OUT

Every Sunday 7.00pm

SANTO, SAM & ED'S TOTAL FOOTBALL

Mondays at 7.30pm on FOX Sports 1

SPANISH LA LIGA

Mon Dec 23 Getafe v Barcelona
2.55 am Fox 2

Mon Dec 23 Athletic Bilbao v Vallengano
4.55 am Fox 2

FIFA Club World Cup

Sat Dec 22 Third Place Match
3.30 am Fox 2

Sat Dec 22 Final
6.30 am Fox 1

TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

We have seen another crazy week in football. Liverpool put Tottenham to the sword and helped Spurs make their decision to sack their manager Andre Villas-Boas while Perth Glory sacked their manager over senior player disputes following their loss to Melbourne Victory. There is every chance Victory can cause another manager change this week with a comprehensive win over against bitter rivals Melbourne Heart.

The A-League has a blockbuster game this weekend with the big Melbourne derby is this Saturday night at AAMI Park. Melbourne Heart has been playing something resembling form in the past two or three weeks but they will need to be at their best to compete with

Katsa's Korner

George Katsamboukas

Ashes for Alistair As Scorer Strikes

A number of A-League Coaches made the News this week, all for the wrong reason.

First Cab of the rank is Perth Glory's, Gaffer Alistair Edwards, or should I say Ex-Perth Glory Coach, as the Scorer made the long trek over the Nullarbor to claim his first wicket of the season.

Rewind back to last Friday where cries of "Who's your Daddy" came bellowing out of the AAMI dressing rooms, the bellow was Perth's Jacob Burns, who was none too pleased with the fact that he not only did not make the starting eleven, but didn't even come on off the Bench.

Appears that Burns believed that Alistair was playing favourites with his Sons, and selecting them to play ahead of him, and others.

A number of Senior Perth Players including Thwaites and Vukovic then backed up Burns, as they believed that Edwards had lost the dressing room, and the Perth Glory Board acted swiftly to point Edwards into the direction of www.seek.com.au.

Glory CEO Jason Brewer denied "the tail was wagging the dog" at the club despite the move appearing to be a stunning victory for player power.

However his further comments are rather interesting to say the least. "If you ask the majority of the players, I think when you look at the head coach's technical and tactical capabilities, I think he's one of the

the attacking might of Victory. Their defensive efforts will have to improve ten-fold if they expect to come away from this game with any points. Michael Mifsud finally broke his goal scoring draught for Heart and he will hope to capitalise on his newfound confidence.

In the round one match-up, Harry Kewell played well and caused a bit of grief for the Victory defence and he will look to do the same again.

Victory have won two of the last three encounters and drawn the other, giving them an edge in confidence. The men in blue are coming off an impressive 2-nil win over Perth Glory in a game Victory absolutely dominated and could very easily have ended up with six goals. The blue side of Melbourne will be very happy with a 3-1 win.

In EPL action the game to watch is the top 3 battle between Arsenal and Chelsea. Arsenal is coming off a massive 6-3 loss to Manchester City but remain on top of the table.

better coaches in the A-League," Brewer said.

"As we all know, to be able to be effective requires other qualities." Kenny Lowe is set to take over.

Over to the City Of Church's we go, where Adelaide United Coach Josep Gombau was feeling the pinch last week, with his Team occupying the second last spot on the ladder.

Seems that he is not a fan of Adelaide soccer writer Val Migliaccio, and an allmighty verbal stoush broke out at last Friday's press conference, with Gombau then offering an absolute pearler to Migliaccio, describing his Son, who is a Goalkeeper, as the Produce of what is stored in Werribee.

For our Non Victorian Readers, this equates to the word HIT with an S in front of it.

Gombau then vented even further claiming that the Adelaide Media did not understand his ideology, where playing attractive Football is more important than the results.

I hope for his sake that the Adelaide Board buys into this!

Last but not least, Melbourne Victory's Coach Kevin Muscat has been awarded the dubious honour of Football's Dirtiest Player, by the Spanish Publication, El Gol Digital.

Muscat left his mark in his playing days in the UK, literally, with some bone crunching tackles that earned him 123 yellow cards.

He beat a star studded list to win this prestigious award which includes such household names as Liverpool striker Luis Suarez and Manchester United legend Roy Keane, as well as former Manchester City hard-man Nigel De Jong and Italian duo of Marco Materazzi and Gennaro Gattuso.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him



Kevin Muscat continues to win awards long after hanging up his boots.



Catch Santo, Sam & Ed's Total Football on Mondays at 7.30pm on FOX Sports 1

Chelsea on the other hand scored a 2-1 victory over Crystal Palace and sit in third spot. If Chelsea can beat the Gunners this weekend they can secure top position on the table and set themselves up for the New Year. Arsenal should get up 2-1.

In W-League action Western Sydney Wanderers tackle Newcastle Jets on Sunday afternoon on ABC1. While both sides are on the bottom of the table, that only means the game will be intense with both sides desperate to lift themselves up the ladder. WSW should win 1-0 and keep the Jets anchored to last spot.

Once all the football action is over don't forget to watch the enthralling analysis programs. SBS is the go to channel with The A-League Highlights Show hosted by the astute Craig Foster and The World Game on Monday night. Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football on Foxtel is your go to show for a colourful take on all things football. Thursday FC is your go to for light entertainment on Thursday night.

Enjoy plenty of football action this weekend and hopefully your team wins.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Words: Alvaro Rodriguez

Photos: Les Shorrock Collection, Deakin University



MURRAY BARNES: Murray Barnes attempts to play his way out of trouble for Sydney City in the NSL. Apart from spending his entire 225-game club career with Sydney City from 1971 until the club folded in 1987, Barnes also represented Australia at Under-23 and senior(Socceroo) level for a combined 30+ caps, culminating in his captaining Australia for much of the ill-fated qualifying campaign for the 1982 World Cup. He passed away in 2011 aged 57.



ALAN HUNTER: Pictured here with his 1986 Victorian NSL Player of the Year Award whilst at Heidelberg United, Hunter had already won the Brisbane Lions'(now the Roar!) Under-21 Player of the Year gong the previous season before a career which saw him grace four more NSL clubs; perhaps most notably Brisbane Strikers under Frank Farina, winning the '96/'97 Grand Final's Joe Marston Medal before heading south as a founding player of AFL club Carlton's short-lived venture into the world game, Carlton SC.

Bridge bites former club with Wanderers winner

Newcastle Jets



0

Western Sydney



1

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 0
Western Sydney Wanderers 1
 (Bridge 33')
 At Hunter Stadium
 Crowd: 16,634
 Referee: Jarred Gillett

Newcastle Jets: 1. Mark Birighitti (gk), 3. Taylor Regan, 4. Kew Jaliens, 5. Ben Kantarovski, 7. Andrew Hoole (19.Michael Bridges 63'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich (capt) (11. Craig Goodwin 63'), 15. Josh Brillante, 16. Jacob Pepper, 18. James Brown (17. James Virgili 52') , 21. Sam Gallaway, 22. Adam Taggart
Substitutes not used: 13. Joey Gibbs, 20. Ben Kennedy (gk)
Yellow Cards: Birighitti 22', Brown 37', Jaliens 55'
Red Cards: nil

Western Sydney Wanderers: 1. Ante Covic (gk), 3. Adam DaPuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley (capt), 6. Jerome Polenz, 7.Labinot Haliti, 8. Mateo Poljak (18. Iacopo La Rocca 89') , 10. Aaron Mooy, 13. Matthew Spiranovic, 17. Youssouf Hersi (26. Jaushua Sotirio 76') , 19. Mark Bridge, 21. Shinji Ono (14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi 74')
Substitutes not Used: 20. Jerrad Tyson (gk), 22. Dean Heffernan
Yellow Cards: Topor-Stanley 70'
Red Cards: nil

By Shaun Dyas

The Western Sydney Wanderers have continued their unbeaten record at Hunter Stadium by beating the Newcastle Jets 1-0 in round 10 of the Hyundai A-League.

The crowd of 16,634 were treated to a tight and pulsating contest that ultimately went the way of the visitor thanks to a Mark Bridge goal on 33 minutes.

The former Newcastle grand final hero came back to haunt his old club yet again and put a dent in the top two aspirations of the home side as the Wanderers skipped four points clear of the Jets.

Newcastle was without two of their star men with both Emile Heskey and Nathan Burns missing due to injury and they could have used the duo in an effort to break down a stubborn Wanderers rearguard. It continued a worrying trend for the Jets against sides that sit deep and keep themselves well organised.

Until they find a way to break down these units, the Jets will continue to struggle to maintain their current lofty position on the A-League ladder.

Earlier, Newcastle almost took the lead after 5 minutes. A delightful piece of interchange involving Ruben Zadkovich and Josh Brillante had the Jets skipper through on goal. He attempted to shoot across Ante Covic in the Wanderers goal and was only denied by the right foot of the Wanderers gloveman. Mark Bridge silenced his former fans in the 33rd minute. Shinji Ono whipped in a ball from the right that was headed back across goal by another former Jet Labinot Haliti. Haliti's misplaced header fell right onto the head of Bridge, who steered his effort over Jets keeper Mark Birighitti and into the back of the net.

Bridge almost doubled the advantage on 44 minutes. Newcastle's defence failed to clear adequately from another cross and the ball fell



Aaron Mooy (Wanderers) stamps his authority in the midfield as Ruben Zadkovich (Jets) skips the tackle.

to Bridge. He controlled before drilling a shot past Birighitti, but not below the crossbar and the Jets were off the hook.

The second half began and the contest remained as tight and tense as the first half, with both sides battling away in midfield and struggling to create clear cut opportunities in front of goal.

Jets coach Gary Van Egmond tried to change things on 63 minutes with a double substitution. Michael Bridges and Craig Goodwin came on for Andrew Hoole and Zadkovich respectively and the tide of the match started to turn towards

the home side.

Goodwin himself unleashed a drive with his first touch that went just wide of Covic's post just and the home side continued to create a few chances thereafter. Bridges in particular was very effective and composed in possession and started to be the player that was dictating the game from just behind Adam Taggart, the Jets main striker.



The only issue for the Jets was the combination of Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Matthew Spiranovic at the back for the Wanderers. On this form, it would appear a

long way back for former Wanderers captain Michael Beauchamp as Topor-Stanley and Spiranovic were simply imperious.

As Newcastle became more desperate, the Wanderers started to look livelier on the counter and on another day they may have taken the chance to kill the game off. As it was, they still managed to snap their three game winless run and will head into their encounter with their grand final nemesis the Central Coast Mariners next weekend full of confidence.

Things will get no easier for the Jets as they next have to travel away

to take on the top of the table Brisbane Roar at Suncorp Stadium.

	Match Stats	
20	Tackles	26
12	Total Shots	22
432	Total Passes	351
54.4%	Possession	45.6%
4	Corners	6
2	Offsides	2
11	Fouls committed	10

Man of the Match
 Matthew Spiranovic (WSW)



Youssouf Hersin (Wanderers) shows his twinkle-toes as Sam Gallaway (Jets) closes in.



Ruben Zadkovich gets the better of Aaron Mooy with this particular clearance.



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Sydney FC



2

Melbourne Heart



1

Match Details

Sydney FC 2 (Del Piero 43, Despotovic 45)
Melbourne Heart 1 (Mifsud 75)

Sydney FC: 20.Vedran Janjetovic, 6.Nikola Petkovic, 22.Ali Abbas, 2.Sebastian Ryall, 8.Pedj Bojic, 19.Carle, 11.Richard Garcia, 16.Joel Chianese, 10.Alessandro del Piero (15.Terry McFlynn), 28.Matt Thompson (7.Brett Emerton), 4.Ranko Despotovic (21. Yairo Yau).

Yellow Crads: Ryall.
Red Cards: None

Melbourne Heart: 1.Andrew Redmayne, 16.Aziz Behic, 3.Rob Wie-laert, 24.Patrick Kisnorbo, 17.Jason Hoffman (23.Mate Dugandzic), 8.Massimo Muroccca, 22.Nick Kalmar, 15.David Williams, 7.Iain Ramsey, 25.Andrea Magliorini (10. Harry Kewell), 11.Michael Mifsud (14.Golgol Mebrahtu).

Yellow Cards: Hoffman, Migliorini, Mifsud
Red Cards: None

Luckless Heart let Sky Blues off the hook

By Bryson Ferriera

John Aloisi will be wondering how his team once again failed to win away from home after squandering numerous opportunities against Sydney FC on Sunday night.

The Heart has had some promising performances in recent weeks but they once again failed to capitalize on their opportunities and at times, looked fragile in defense.

Sydney FC welcomed back the great man Alessandro Del Piero and also former Socceroo Brett Emerton, in what most thought would be a relatively comfortable win for the Sky Blues.

The Heart also named Harry Kewell in their squad for the second week running, hoping their star man could make the same impressive impact off the bench as the week before against the Wanderers.

The opening exchanges however, albeit quite sluggish and devoid of any real intensity, was actually quite even, as the Heart tried to cling on to any hope of an away victory that has eluded them for so long.

Not dissimilar to the week before against the Mariners, Sydney FC seemed to lack creativity and quality in the midfield, that was of course until their Italian captain got on the ball in the 43rd minute.

The Italian legend easily weaved past two defenders to deliver a superb goal just before half-time, much to the delight of most of the 16,008 frustrated fans.

John Aloisi would have been livid with the defending that lead to Del Piero's first goal, after three of his players stood off the Italian maestro even after he'd waltzed into the penalty box and shot past Andrew Redmayne's near post.

The Sky Blues capitalised on a deflated Heart side to double the advantage just moments later and go to the break 2-0 up.

Despotovic made the most of more space in the Heart penalty box as he fired his shot low and hard



Serbian striker Ranko Despotovich (4) leaves the Heart defence sprawling after doubling the lead just before half time.

which was too good for the diving Andrew Redmayne, who could do nothing to thwart the effort. Despite their horrible run of results and 2 nil scoreline, the Heart began the second stanza with a sense of urgency, living up to their name.

The likes of Andrea Migliorini, David Williams, Golgol Mebrahtu and Mifsud began peppering Vedran Janjetovic's goal in the hope of matching their comeback performance against Adelaide on match-day 8.

The Heart might also have been buoyed by the fact Frank Farina had taken off Alessandro Del Piero after only 45 minutes as a precaution, and sensed they could get

back in the game without the Italian captain on the pitch.

The Heart's best chance came by way of a penalty in the 67th minute after Nick Kalmar's shot came off the hand of Joel Chianese.

All the momentum was with the Melbourne side and it was their chance to not only get back in the game, but hopefully get their season back on track.

What happened next was the Melbourne Heart's season so far in a nutshell, with what can only be described as one of, if not the worst penalty on Harry Kewell's career. From that point on you felt it just wasn't going to be the Heart's day, despite Mifsud making no mistake



moments later when he found himself in plenty of space in front of goal and with Janjetovic off his line easily got one back.

The Sky Blues were able to hold on until the end, but will be under no illusions after getting out of jail against a team rooted to the bottom on the table and devoid of luck.

Farina's team now sit in third place, six points clear of the Glory who sit just outside the top six and go to Wellington next week before returning home for a much anticipated match against table toppers, Brisbane Roar.

For the Heart it's back to Melbourne and back to the drawing board, as the luckless men in red

and white try to conjure something that's going to produce their first win of the season. Much to the relief of the coach, players and fans however, i feel it's not too far away.

	Match Stats	
		
15	Tackles	17
7	Total Shots	18
476	Total Passes	363
56%	Possession	44%
0	Corners	4
4	Offsides	3
17	Fouls committed	15
Man of the Match Del Piero (Sydney FC)		



Michael Mifsud tried to console Harry Kewell after the Heart captain shanked his spot kick.



Ranko Despotovich takes on Patrick Kisnorbo in the Heart defence.



Roar Line Up

1. Michael THEO
2. Matthew SMITH (c)
5. Ivan FRANJIC
7. Besart BERISHA
10. HENRIQUE
11. Liam MILLER
14. Diogo FERREIRA
15. James DONACHIE
17. Matt McKay
18. Luke BRATTAN
19. Jack HINGERT
20. Matthew ACTON (gk)
22. Thomas BROICH
23. Dimitri PETRATOS
26.Corey BROWN
27. Brandon BORRELLO
29.Kwame YEBOAH
(one to be omitted)
- In: 27. Brandon BORRELLO
(promoted)
- Out: Nil
- Unavailable: 3. Shane STEFA-NUTTO (hamstring), 25. George LAMBADARDIS (knee - season)

Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets

Roar Chases Century of Wins

Jarrold Ellis

Five points clear at the top of the table and on a run of four consecutive wins there's plenty to be happy about for Brisbane Roar. Mike Mulvey's men endured a tight game last weekend against Wellington but did enough to secure the three points and make it two from two and the Phoenix this season. This weekend Brisbane will face Newcastle for the second time this season. Their first meeting came back in November and resulted in a 2-1 victory for the unfancied Jets amidst what were dreadful conditions. That result was the last time the Roar lost and given the nature of the defeat, some excellent finishing from Adam Taggart notwithstanding, the league leaders will no doubt be looking for some vengeance. Defensive mistakes and a poor playing surface did for Brisbane that day and even if the Roar eliminate said mistakes from their play at the back a Jon Bon Jovi concert just three days before kick-off will undoubtedly have had an effect on the pitch no matter what Suncorp Stadium officials may insist. A below-par playing surface wouldn't play into the Roar's hands but any team aiming to claim trophies needs to be able to adapt and with the talents of Besart Berisha, Thomas Broich and Ivan Franjic in



their ranks Brisbane have the cattle to get the job done. A win on Friday would mean more than three points for the Roar, a victory would be the club's 100th in the A-League and would make Brisbane the first to reach the milestone, an honour that that club would very much like to claim. Newcastle might not have anything aside from three points riding on the outcome of the match but the Jets are in the thick of the finals race and could sit third on the ladder come the close of the weekend should they defeat Brisbane on Friday night. The Jets will rightly have some confidence of pulling off a result against Brisbane, the visitors have only lost twice on their travels to Suncorp Stadium and already having recorded two impressive interstate wins this

Fri Dec 20 SUncorp Stadium 8:00 PM

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Roar 1.50 Draw 4.23 Jets 7.00	Played 26 Roar 9 Jets 10 Drawn 7
Referee: Peter Green	

Radio Broadcast: Full LIVE coverage on 612 ABC Brisbane, ABC Local Radio Queensland, 1233 ABC Newcastle, Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #BRivNEW

Kiss of Death
Roar 2-1 Jets

Heskey and Burns Gary von Egmond is expected to retain the squad that featured against Western Sydney. Should Burns and Heskey return then the Jets will have the fire-power to trouble the Roar defence, an attribute that team's wanting to turn over the river city club will need to possess this season given their ability to produce goals from a variety of avenues. Newcastle's defence may be young and relatively inexperienced but they've acquitted themselves well so far this season and the growing influence of Kew Jaliens should help provide a stern test for Besart Berisha. There are more glamorous ties scheduled this weekend but Friday's match-up should prove engrossing viewing and with no small chance of an upset.



Jets Line Up

1. Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
3. Taylor REGAN
4. Kew JALIENS
5. Ben KANTAROVSKI
6. Zenon CARAVELLA
7. Andrew HOOLE
8. Ruben ZADKOVICH (c)
11. Craig GOODWIN
13. Joseph GIBBS
15. Josh BRILLANTE
16. Jacob PEPPER
18. James BROWN
21. Sam GALLAWAY
22. Adam TAGGART
20. Ben KENNEDY (gk)
24. Mitchell OXBORROW.
- Ins: 24. Mitchell OXBORROW
(promoted), 6. Zenon CARAVELLA
(promoted).
- Outs: 17. James VIRGILI, 19. Michael BRIDGES.
- Unavailable: 9. Emile Heskey (knee), 10. Nathan BURNS (knee).



Heart Line Up

1. Andrew REDMAYNE (GK)
3. Robbie WIELAERT
6. Patrick GERHARDT
7. Iain RAMSAY
8. Massimo MURDOCCA
10. Harry KEWELL
11. Michael MIFSUD
14. Golgol MEBRAHTU
15. David WILLIAMS
16. Aziz BEHICH
17. Jason HOFFMAN
19. Ben GARUCCIO
20. Tando VELAPHI (GK)
21. Stefan MAUK
22. Nick KALMAR
23. Mate DUGANDZIC
24. Patrick KISNORBO
25. Andrea MIGLIORINI
(Two to be omitted)
- Ins: Nil
- Outs: Nil
- Unavailable: 4. Orlando ENGE-LAAR (Fractured tibia – 5-9 weeks), 13. Jonatan GERMANO (Calf - 5 weeks)

Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory

Heart desperate for some Christmas cheer

Chris Hearn

Bottom of the table Melbourne Heart host fourth-placed Melbourne Victory at AAMI Park on Saturday night. This fixture has excited, captivated and frustrated whatever side of the fence you sit on. Three wins apiece and four draws tell the story of a vigorously contested and always firey fixture. Kevin Muscat will be taking part in his first Melbourne Derby as manager of the club, while John Aloisi's Heart are still searching for their first win this season. His side battled bravely and were unlucky to not get a result against Sydney FC at Allianz Stadium. Sydney FC's cutting edge ultimately decided the contest, with goals from Alessandro Del Piero and Ranko Despotovic putting the Sky-Blues 2-0 ahead before Michael Mifsud rounded Sydney's goalkeeper Vedran Janjetovic to get his side back into the contest with 20 minutes to play. The moment the game will be remembered by, will be for all the wrong reasons. After a Nick Kalmar free kick struck the arm of Joel Chianese in the area, referee Chris Beath did not hesitate in pointing to the spot. 35-year old Kewell was given the responsibility, but fired horribly wide. It was a moment that summed up



their season thus far, but they did not let it harm them. They fought back magnificently, peppering the Sydney goal - only denied a result by some great goalkeeping and bad luck. Aloisi's side will feel the foundation is there to seriously challenge their arch-rivals in front of a capacity crowd. It's a huge test which has the potential to completely reignite their season The Victory find themselves well positioned coming into this clash, but not without their own consistency issues in recent times. After a 0-0 draw against the Central Coast Mariners in Gosford, they slumped to a 2-1 defeat at home to the Newcastle Jets. This was followed up with a 2-0 victory against Perth Glory last week to put their season back on track.

Sat Dec 21 AAMI Park 7:30 PM

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Heart 4.25 Draw 3.65 Victory 1.95	Played 10 Heart 3 Victory 3 Drawn 4
Referee: Ben William	

Radio Broadcast: Full LIVE coverage on 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local radio Victoria, 936 ABC Hobart and ABC Northern Tasmania Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MelbDerby

Kiss of Death
Heart 0-1 Victory

The Heart defence will need to be at their best to subdue the expansive Victory forward line, while the form of Mifsud gives them a solid platform to attack. Archie Thompson looks set to return for the Victory, while Jason Geria will be fit despite being substituted after a knock in the win against Perth. Dylan Macallister may return for the hosts, while Orlando Engelaar and Jonatan Germano still face lengthy absences. Despite some recent negative results, the Victory will be confident of a win here as this derby may have come slightly too soon for Aloisi's side. The Heart will desperately be looking to give their fans some early Christmas cheer, but the Victory should win this one.



Victory Line Up

1. Nathan COE (GK)
2. Pablo CONTRERAS
3. Adama TRAORE
4.Nick ANSELL
5. Mark MILLIGAN
6. Leigh BROXHAM
7. Gui FINKLER
9. Kosta BARBAROUSES
10. Archie THOMPSON
11. Connor PAIN
13. Andrew NABBOUT
14. James TROISI
15. Mitch NICHOLS
16. Rashid MAHAZI
20. Lawrence THOMAS (GK)
23. Adrian LEIJER
24. Scott GALLOWAY
25. Jason GERIA
(two to be omitted)
- Ins: 10. Archie THOMPSON, 24. Scott GALLOWAY
- Outs: Nil
- Unavailable: Nil

A new novel by GW's Adrian Deans

Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates. Straight Jacket is a ripsnorter of a ride through the dark heart of the burbs and may just be Australia's answer to American Psycho.

Kirsten Krauth, just_a_girl

Sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing, and always compelling. With a super original premise and a one-of-a-kind protagonist, Deans' entertaining follow up to Mr Cleansheets delivers on every level.

Tony Wilson, Making News

A disturbingly good read. Unnerving and darkly comic. Stuart Quin, Ealing Studios Australia



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STRAIGHT JACKET



ADRIAN DEANS

'Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates.'



Phoenix Line Up

- 1. Glen MOSS (GK)
 - 2. Manny MUSCAT
 - 5. Michael BOXALL
 - 7. Leo BERTOS
 - 8. Paul IFILL
 - 9. Kenny CUNNINGHAM
 - 10. Stein HUYSEGEMS
 - 11. Jeremy BROCKIE
 - 12. Tyler BOYD
 - 13. Albert RIERA
 - 15. Jason HICKS
 - 16. Louis FENTON
 - 17. Vince LIA
 - 18. Ben SIGMUND
 - 20. Lewis ITALIANO (GK)
 - 21. Carlos HERNANDEZ
 - 22. Andrew DURANTE (capt)
 - 23. Matthew RIDENTON.
- (two to be omitted).

Wellington Phoenix v Sydney FC

Sun Dec 22 Westpac Stdm 5:00 PM

Reds Hoping To Turn The Tide

Joe Gallagher

By the time this goes to print Wellington Phoenix's winless start to the season may have ended, but that will scarcely have eased the pressure on coach Ernie Merrick.

The Phoenix travel to Gosford for a match against the champions on Thursday night before jetting back across the Tasman for Sunday's visit by Sydney FC.

Frank Farina's side will still hold a particularly bitter taste for Wellington, who were undone by a last-gasp winner to Ranko Despotovic at Allianz Stadium just a matter of weeks ago.

Their starting line-up has been bolstered since then with the return of Alessandro del Piero for the third-placed Sydney FC, who could climb above the Western Sydney Wanderers and within touching distance of the Brisbane Roar with victory in New Zealand on Sunday.

Win, lose or draw against the Mariners, Merrick's hunger for three points against the Sky Blues will be unwavering on Sunday for a number of reasons, both on and off the pitch.

A run of poor results – if not necessarily performances – sees Wellington enter the congested festive period with only goal difference separating them from bottom spot,



and fans in the capital have reached near breaking point.

Attendances are also not as high as the owners might like and Merrick could well see himself having to justify to his employers why the first nine months of his tenure have been quite so catastrophic.

He was almost at a loss to describe Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Brisbane Roar after his side outplayed the league-leading visitors, registering more shots on goal and dominating for much of the match.

But, as has too often been the case this season he has been left scratching his head as the Phoenix's wastefulness on attack has let him down.

He could do worse than to offer a rest to last year's golden boot Jeremy Brockie. The striker has been off-colour this season, typified by a contender for miss of the year – globally, that is – from five yards out on Saturday.

And with the squad carrying a few injury niggles – particularly in the middle of the park – perhaps a four day stretch including two A-League matches isn't quite what the doctor ordered.

The twin games might provide an opportunity to blood some squad members and give them a final opportunity to stake their claim for a starting berth before the transfer window opens in January.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Phoenix 2.27 Draw 3.50 Sydney FC 3.20	Played 21 Phoenix 9 Sydney FC 11 Drawn 1
Referee: Peter O'Leary	

Radio Broadcast: Full LIVE coverage on 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local Radio NSW, Grandstand Digital Sydney Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WELvSYD

**Kiss of Death
Wellington 3-1 Sydney FC**

Merrick, though facing an uphill battle to reach the top six, remains confident in his finals ambitions. But he will have to navigate a pathway to victory sooner rather than later, as the ever-growing gap between top seven and bottom three stretched to eight points after the last full round of A-League matches.

It is reaching the point at which draws are no longer sufficient for him to ease the tension – and therein lies a handy statistic.

In A-League fixtures between the two sides, there has only been one stalemate in 21 attempts.

Merrick would desperately want to be on the positive side of the ledger on Sunday to make their Christmases just that little bit more enjoyable.



Sydney FC Line Up

- 1.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk)
 - 2.Seb RYALL
 - 4.Ranko DESPOTOVIC
 - 5.Matt JURMAN
 - 6.Nikola PETKOVIC
 - 7. Brett EMERTON
 - 8. Pedj BOJIC
 - 9. Corey GAMEIRO
 - 10. Alessandro DEL PIERO (c)
 - 11. Richard GARCIA
 - 15.Terry MCFLYNN
 - 16.Joel CHIANESE
 - 19.Nicky CARLE
 - 20.Vedran JANJETOVIC (gk)
 - 21.Yairo YAU
 - 22.Ali ABBAS
 - 27.Christopher NAUMOFF
 - 28.Matt THOMPSON.
- (Two to be omitted)

Ins: 9. Corey GAMEIRO (returns from injury), 27.Christopher NAUMOFF (promoted).

Outs: -

Unavailable: Rhyan GRANT (knee – season), Peter TRIANTIS (groin - indefinite), Terry ANTONIS (thigh - indefinite), Tiago CALVANO (Suspended – 5 matches)



Glory Line Up

- 1.Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)
 - 2.Jack CLISBY
 - 3.Brandon O'NEILL
 - 4.Ryan EDWARDS
 - 6.Cameron EDWARDS
 - 7. Jacob BURNS
 - 8.Ryo NAGAI
 - 10.Jamie MACLAREN
 - 11. Adrian ZAHRA
 - 14.Steven McGARRY
 - 16.Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES
 - 17. Chris HAROLD
 - 18.Jack DUNCAN
 - 20. Danny DE SILVA
 - 22. Ndumba MAKECHE
 - 23.Michael THWAITE
 - 24.Matthew DAVIES
 - 25. Riley WOODCOCK
- (two to be omitted)

Ins: 11. Adrian ZAHRA, 16.Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES

Outs: -

Unavailable: -

Perth Glory v Adelaide United

Sun Dec 22 nib Stadium 7:00 PM

Reds look to add to Glory's misery

Peter Simcox

The past couple of weeks has been a real test off the field for both Perth Glory and Adelaide United, but they will be looking to get the job done on the pitch on Sunday when they meet in Round 11 of the Hyundai A-League at the nib Stadium (4.30pm WA time).

The shock sacking of Glory coach Alistair Edwards on Monday, after a player revolt, has rocked the club and its supporters, but they need to get back in the winner's circle sooner rather than later if they are to keep in touch with the top six.

Sidnei Sciola, who has just signed a new two-year contract at the club, Shane Smeltz and William Gallas will miss again, but skipper Jacob Burns is in line for a recall to the starting eleven along with Adrian Zahra. But after the turmoil in the club, whoever takes charge of the side will have some big decisions to make.

The hunt for a new coach is on with former coaches Mich d'Avray and Kenny Lowe mentioned, also Chris Coyne and Graham Normanton, who both coach in the local Football West competition. Glory CEO Jason Brewer is hoping to make an announcement before Sunday's game against



Adelaide with Lowe the favourite. "Unfortunately after two days of discussions with the head coach we weren't able to reach an agreement," Brewer said.

"We felt as a board the measures could have been implemented effectively and resulted in this club moving forward and competing for a finals position, but it wasn't to be.

"The playing group as a whole has come together for discussions. I've sat down with each and every player and we've got feedback from everybody as to how we want this club to be going forward."

Adelaide Coach Josep Gombau let his side do the talking last week after his altercation with a local journalist which looked to unstable the club. The 4-0 thrashing off Central Coast

Mariners was a perfect tonic, and they will head west full of confidence as they go in search of their first away win of the season.

The Reds will again be without the injured Cassio for the trip west but defender Jon McKain is hoping the big win against the Mariners kick starts their season. "There has been a lot of talk about pressure and things like that, but as a playing group we haven't really felt pressure, we've just been a bit frustrated really," McKain said.

"We've been playing ok in patches and really well at other times, just not getting the results or the ball to fall our way."

"So it's a good start 4-0, from my point of view the three points and the clean sheet were the most important

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Glory 2.27 Draw 3.60 AUFC 3.40	Played 26 Glory 8 Adelaide 12 Drawn 6
Referee: Alan Milliner	

Radio Broadcast: Full LIVE coverage on 720 ABC Perth, ABC Local Radio Western Australia, 891 ABC Adelaide, ABC Local Radio South Australia, Grandstand Digital, Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PERvADL

**Kiss of Death
Jets 2-1 Wanderers**

things, and we go to Perth with a bit of confidence."

The two sides have met twice this season already, the Reds running out 3-1 winners at the Coopers Stadium in the opening game of the season, while the points were shared in a 1-1 draw at the nib Stadium in round six. On that occasion Osama Malik opened the scoring, before Chris Harold levelled.

Both sides need three points and with all that's been going on at the nib Stadium, Adelaide will fancy their chances. They haven't won in Perth since 2008, when a goal from Kristian Sarkies just before half time gave them the points on Boxing Day that year, it may be their time to come home with all three points.



Adelaide Utd Line Up

- 1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (GK) (c)
 - 3.Nigel BOOGAARD
 - 4.Jon McKAIN
 - 5.Osama MALIK
 - 7.JERONIMO
 - 8.ISAIAS
 - 9.Sergio CIRIO
 - 10.Marcelo CARRUSCA
 - 11.Bruce DJITE
 - 12.Antony GOLEC
 - 13.Steven LUSTICA
 - 14.Cameron WATSON
 - 17.Awer MABIL
 - 18.Michael ZULLO
 - 19.Jake BARKER-DAISH
 - 21.Tarek ELRICH
 - 25.Ryan KITTO
 - 30.John HALL (GK)
- (two to be omitted)

Ins: 12.Antony GOLEC (promoted), 14.Cameron WATSON (promoted), 17.Awer MABIL (promoted)

Outs: 22.Fabio FERREIRA (adductor – 1-2 weeks)

Unavailable: 6.CASSIO (hamstring tendon – 5 weeks)

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Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante COVIC (gk)
2. Shannon COLE
3. Adam D'APUZZO
4. Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY
5. Michael BEAUCHAMP (c)
6. Jerome POLENZ
7. Labinot HALITI
8. Mateo POLJAK
10. Aaron MOOY
12. Tahj MINNIECON
13. Matthew SPIRANOVIC
17. Youssef HERSI
18. Iacopo LA ROCCA
19. Mark BRIDGE
20. Jerrad TYSON (gk)
21. Shinji ONO
22. Dean HEFFERNAN
23. Jason TRIFIRO
(Two to be omitted)

Ins: 2. Shannon COLE (promoted), 5. Michael BEAUCHAMP (promoted), 23. Jason TRIFIRO (promoted)

Outs: -

Unavailable: 9. Tomi Juric (knee), 11. Brendon SANTALAB (calf)

West Syd Wanderers v CC Mariners

Mon Dec 23 Parramatta Stdm 7PM

Wanderers catch Mariners on the bounce

Saman Zaiei

Central Coast Mariners will be looking to make amends in round 11 against the Western Sydney Wanderers at Wanderland after surprisingly going down 4-0 to the Reds in round 10.

This game will not be easy for both sides, particularly the Coast given that they will be playing a game on Thursday evening against the Phoenix, only four evenings before they take on the minor premier champions and current second spot on the table. From last season's performances while they were playing in the Asians Champions League mid week at home and abroad, Arnold testified that his men were getting fatigue and tiresome as a result of playing two games a week on top of the training and travel.

Although in many parts of the world, especially Europe where we see top class teams play two times a week very often, in this League it is unfortunately not a common occurrence.

Can the Wanderers use this to their advantage on top of playing at their home crowd, or will they pay for their struggles to put the ball in the back of the net week after week?

In defence, WSW are inarguably solid and staunch, coming into the



11th round equal Brisbane having the least goals conceded, only 7 in 10 games.

Upfront however, we still have not seen anything too threatening. Out of their 5 wins this season, only 1 has been by more than a 1 goal margin, where they beat Sydney FC 2-0, the other 4 have just scraped through leaving their fans on the edge of their seat until the final whistle, a very different story compared to the likes of Roar who look hungrier than ever to take both titles this season.

This of course does imply that they are afraid to take shots, having a total of 114 this season, 57% of which have been off target, giving a very weak accuracy rate of 9.6%.

Has Popovic done anything to make those changes that are needed upfront? Have their attacking midfielders and strikers put extra hours on the training pitch to dramatically improve their accuracy?

Central Coast who are currently sitting in 6th place with a potential to take 4th if they beat Wellington on Thursday or stay put if they see a draw or lose, were not very threatening in their last performance either.

Having conceded four goals in one game, two of which came from within the six yard box and the other two within the penalty area, keeper Reddy had a difficult time making only two saves from shots that came from outside the box.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Wanderers 1.80 Draw 3.65 Mariners 4.50	Played 5 Wanderers 1 Mariners 2 Drawn 2

Referee: Chris Beath

Radio Broadcast: ABC Radio Online/
Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on
Twitter using the hash-tag
#WSWvCCM

**Kiss of Death
Wanderers 2-2 Mariners**

More surprising was the fact that Adelaide kept a clean sheet, their first for the entire season, while the Wanderers have five (meaning 50% of their games played they have not conceded any goals) and Central Coast three.

With attackers like McBreen who has returned from a loan in China, Flores and Duke, who are not shy of scoring goals, this fixture will be heated from the very onset as they will want to prove their worth not only to themselves, but to their coach, team and fans.

How do you see the game ending this Monday evening, another 1-1 draw like the first round fixture? A comfortable win for the Coast like it was for them in the finals? Or will it be the second time WSW beat the yellow?



Mariners Line Up

1. Justin PASFIELD (Gk)
2. Daniel MCBREEN
3. Joshua ROSE
4. Marcel SEIP
5. Zachary ANDERSON
6. Brent GRIFFITHS
7. John HUTCHINSON (C)
8. Nick MONTGOMERY
9. Mitchell DUKE
10. Marcos FLORES
11. Nick FITZGERALD
12. Liam REDDY (Gk)
14. Michael MCGLINCHY
15. Storm ROUX
16. Trent SAINSBURY
17. Anthony CACERES
19. Matt SIMON
21. Mile STERJOVSKI
(Two to be omitted)

Ins: 5. Zachary ANDERSON (promoted), 11. Nick FITZGERALD (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 22. Tom SLATER (back – 2 weeks)

YEBOAH SET TO SIGN IN GERMANY

Brisbane Roar has confirmed that Kwame Yeboah will join Bundesliga club Borussia Mönchengladbach, subject to a medical.

The 19-year-old has flown to Europe to complete formalities with the German club ahead of the January transfer window.

"As a club, we will not stand in the way of opportunities like this for our young players," Football Director Ken Stead said.

"It's a great achievement for Brisbane Roar to see so many former players excelling in top leagues overseas and as part of the Socceroos.

"This new environment will allow Kwame to continually improve his game and further his youth and senior national team ambitions in the future."

The former Gold Coast United youth player will miss Brisbane's Hyundai A-League fixture against Newcastle Jets on Friday night but will be available for selection for the Boxing Day away match against Sydney FC.

Round 11: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Roar - 14 Jets - 0 - Draw - 1 Heart - 5 Victory - 9 Draw - 1 Phoenix - 10 Sydney FC - 2 Draw - 6 Glory - 5 Adelaide - 5 Draw - 5 Wanderers - 12 Mariners - 0 Draw - 3

Santo Cilauro **26**

Roar
Heart
Phoenix
Draw
Wanderers

Last week: 3

Working Dog Productions

George Donikian **23**

Brisbane
Heart
Sydney
Draw
Wanderers

Last week: 3

Media Mogul

George Calombaris **25**

Roar
Victory
Phoenix
Adelaide
Wanderers

Last week: 3

No. 1 Victory ticket holder

Eddie Krncevic **15**

Roar
Heart
Phoenix
Draw
Draw

Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

John Perin **21**

Brisbane
Victory
Phoenix
Adelaide
WSW

Last week: 3

Hall of Fame Socceroo

Andy Harper **20**

Brisbane
Victory
Wellington
Adelaide
Wanderers

Last week: 2

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

Ross Alatsas **26**

Roar
Heart
Phoenix
Glory
Wanderers

Last week: 3

GM Greek Media Group

Jimmy Campbell **22**

Roar
Draw
Phoenix
Adelaide
Wanderers

Last week: 2

Former Socceroo

George Campbell **26**

Roar
Victory
Draw
Glory
Wanderers

Last week: 4

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

Jimmy Rooney **16**

Draw
Victory
Phoenix
Glory
Draw

Last week: 1

World Cup '74 Socceroo

Roger Sleeman **25**

Roar
Victory
Draw
Adelaide
Wanderers

Last week: 5

Reigning Tipping Champ

John Doyle **20**

Roar
Heart
Phoenix
Glory
Wanderers

Last week: 2

Original Captain Socceroo

Peter Katholos **26**

Brisbane
Victory
Draw
Perth
Wanderers

Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

Steve Blair **23**

Roar
Victory
Phoenix
Glory
Wanderers

Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

Kiss Of Death **24**

Roar
Victory
Phoenix
Draw
Draw

Last week: 2

GW Contributors



MELBOURNE HEART FC

GOAL! WEEKLY

MELBOURNE HEART FC



Absent: Michael Mifsud, Orlando Engelaar, Ben Garuccio, Stefan Mauk

Melbourne Heart FC Hyundai A-League Season 2013-14

Back Row: 23. Mate DUGANDZIC, 14. Golgol MEBRAHTU, 18. David VRANKOVIC, 24. Patrick KISNORBO, 5. Sam MITCHINSON, 13. Jonatan GERMANO
Middle Row: 2. Jeremy WALKER, 6. Patrick GERHARDT, 17. Jason HOFFMAN, 20. Tando VELAPHI, 1. Andrew REDMAYNE, 25. Andrea MIGLIORINI, 22. Nick KALMAR, 9. Dylan MACALLISTER

Front Row: 15. David WILLIAMS, 7. Iain RAMSAY, 10 Harry KEWELL (C), Joe PALATSIDES (FNYL Coach), Head Coach John ALOISI, Assistant Coach Hayden FOXE, Assistant Coach Gerard NUS, 8. Massimo MURDOCCA, 3. Robbie WIELAERT, 16. Aziz BEHICH



MELBOURNE VICTORY

2013/14 MELBOURNE VICTORY FOOTBALL CLUB

TOP ROW: 26 Jordan Brown, 8 Jonathan Bru, 4 Nick Ansell, 17 Jimmy Jeggo, 22 Jesse Makarounas, 13 Andrew Nabbout, 24 Sam Galloway,
MIDDLE ROW: 14 James Troisi, 25 Jason Geria, 7 Gui Finkler, 20 Lawrence Thomas, 1 Nathan Coe, 18 Francesco Stella, 16 Rashid Mahazi, 11 Connor Pain,
FRONT ROW: 3 Adama Traore, 23 Adrian Leijer, 2 Pablo Contreras, 5 Mark Milligan, Coach Ange Postecoglou, 10 Archie Thompson, 6 Leigh Broxham, 15 Mitch Nichols, 9 Kosta Barbarouses
Photo & Graphics: Anita Milas

Pol's Football Funnies



Boo's World

Mark Boric

There was as much drama off the pitch as on it this week, with spot fires emerging all over the place. Maybe the summer heat brought out the madness and aggression, or everyone has taken a leaf out of the Australian cricket team's book.

It began with the pissant club, Adelaide United. A series of negative articles in the Adelaide Advertiser by Val Migliaccio culminated with the reporter goading coach Josep Gombau at a training ground interview. With Gombau aggrieved at the line of questioning, Migliaccio informed him he needed to "harden up". When Migliaccio claimed some players had lost faith in him, Gombau responded that he had heard things about him, namely that "I heard your son is a shit goal-keeper".

None of this occurred in public, so whilst the personal comment from Gombau was out of order, it only came into the public consciousness because Migliaccio chose to make it an issue. He tweeted a link to an article the following day, titling it "Sad day for Adelaide United". In it he decried the attack on his son (which he chose to air to an audience) whilst bemoaning the lack of professionalism of Gombau (curiously whilst also admitting to having had heated confronta-



Adelaide United fans express their support for coach Josep Gombau Photo: ADAM BUTLER

tions with every other former Reds coach). The piece contained heavy spin, with Migliaccio mentioning his son used a helmet to defy injury and play on despite previous medical advice.

It also contained a link to video footage of the argument, which from social media reaction failed to garner support for his cause. Indeed, it seemed to galvanise United fans behind their coach, with a "In Josep We Trust" banner prominent in the crowd during Saturday's game against the Central Coast Mariners.

Of course this all set the scene for Adelaide's second win of the season, a resounding 4-0 triumph over the reigning champions.

Simon Hill entered the fray late, with a piece on the Fox Sports website defending Migliaccio which was as much an attack on "anti-social media" and SBS as anything else. He made no mention of Migliaccio being someone Aurelio Vidmar is meant to have been referring to in his infamous "Pissant Town" outburst, which is fairly relevant given the latest melodrama.

He brought up Jim Magilton as being hounded out of his job at Melbourne Victory, I suspect largely because of the ideological differences between his Fox Sports and SBS (where Craig Foster was the main instigator) and the continuing agenda both groups promote against each other. He justifies accepting Migliaccio hounding Gombau whilst castigating Foster (though not actually naming him, which is rather weak) for having led the charge against Magilton by querying the journalistic principles

BACK OF THE NET

Compiled By Greg Zanelli

Business Sport Lifestyle Tech Menu

HITC SPORT Sections

/ FOOTBALL
/ LEEDS UNITED AFC

And finally, statistically speaking there was one stand-out side. In fact, the amount of passes registered by Derby County over their last two games have even outdone the most renowned passing side in the world!

On the last two games:

Derby County - 1237 passes - 87.5% pass accuracy - 36 shots - 7 goals.

Barcelona - 1144 - 87.5% pass accuracy - 21 shots - 4 goals.

So there you have it - Derby are currently more attractive to watch than Barcelona.

image: © Chris Robertshaw

WIN!

of ex-pro players. One suspects he would be less critical of the former pro-players from his own stable.

It's funny he should bring up Magilton in this. If Gombau was unprofessional in his verbal insult, how professional does he think Magilton was? After all he was suspended as manager by Queen's Park Rangers after one of his players alleged he had been headbutted by him in an argument. Would he rather be told his son was a shit keeper or cop a Liverpool Kiss?

So are we to glean that haranguing someone whilst telling them they need to harden up is proper journalism as long as it doesn't come from a former player? Is not proper journalism telling both sides of a story? It's a long bow to compare the plights of Gombau and Magilton. Magilton's "hounding out" was actually not being offered a full-time contract after being appointed to be in charge until the end of the season. Apart from not having the support of the SBS mafia, he also lacked support from the Victory fans. Gombau on the other hand is contracted (only a recent appointment) and still has solid backing from the fans. The club and their fans have as much right to stand by their man as Simon has to

stand by his.

The Friday drama was post-game at AAMI Park, where Perth Glory went into meltdown following their loss to Melbourne Victory. Skipper Jacob Burns, an unused sub on the night, is said to have confronted coach Alistair Edwards after the game. It appears there is a rift between the senior element of the playing squad and their boss, who has placed himself in a difficult position by including two of his sons on the playing roster. It's a situation which is always hard to manage, because unless the kids are far away among the first few to go on the team-sheet the calls of nepotism from the disgruntled are never far away.

On Sunday the flailing handbag came from Mrs Harry Kewell, Sheree Murphy, who tweeted that the Fox commentators were "douchebags" for mocking Harry's woeful penalty miss. In a week where no one wanted to be the bigger man and let things slide or turn the other cheek, the tweet was picked up on the Fox Sports crew. Why can't everyone just get along, like Melbourne Victory and the (not their) Northern Terrace?

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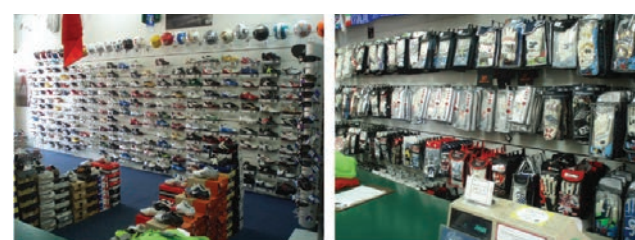
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Macron Launch Melbourne Store

Last Saturday in Mount Waverley, MACRON Sportswear officially opened their first Store in Australia.

For the occasion their marquee club in A-League, Perth Glory, attended the event with some of their most representative players (the captain Jacob Burns, the goalkeeper Danny Vukovic and striker Jamie Maclaren) and officials (the General Manager Mr. Anthony

Radic and the chairman's wife Mrs Lucy Sage). More than 50 guests were at the corporate function with representatives from Victorian clubs supplied by the Italian company, such as Melbourne Knights, Werribee City and Avondale Heights. The Oceania branch of MACRON started its business last September 2012 under the supervision of the Managing Director David King and

the business manager Giacomo Carulli. Since then, Macron is seemingly on its way to being a major player in the Australian market after they have already adorned famous clubs Aston Villa, Napoli, Leeds United, Hajduk Split and Lazio in Europe as well as other clubs in NSW, QLD and WA (Sutherland Sharks, Peninsula Power and Perth SC).



Lucy Sage, wife of Perth Glory chairman Tony Sage, with guest.



Macron's new store at 32/170 Forster Road, Mt Waverley.



Glory Boys: Perth Glory's Danny Vukovic, Jacob Burns and Jamie Maclaren (far right), with Giacomo Carulli (Macron National Business Manager and PR), David King (Macron Oceania Managing Director).



Fausto and Rosemary Barbetta from Werribee City FC.



Jason Xerri (Macron account manager) and Giacomo Carulli.

Eddie's Crunchlines



Eddie Krncevic

Greetings football fans, and welcome to a long awaited dose of Krncevic's Krunchlines.

Some of you might be wondering where my column had disappeared to of late, well, let me assure you that I'm still keeping tabs on the game, but was forced to dedicate much of my time to various other projects. They don't call me Eddie Everywhere for nothing!

Anyway, it's good to be back and I look forward to seeing you every week in my column in Australia's favourite football fanzine.

To kick things off, let me just say that I was truly honoured and humbled to be selected in the FFA's Team of the Decade during the week. The awards ceremony was held in Melbourne for the first time at the Crown Towers and it was great to see the various Socceroo and Matildas squads and internationals recognised for their contributions and achievements.

It was great to catch up with some old friends and friendly foes of the

football family.

It only seems like yesterday that I was donning on the shirt to represent the Green and Gold, and as I said on Wednesday, it is one of the proudest moments a footballer can have in a career. I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to play at the highest level and be able to play my part in the development of the game in this country.

It goes without saying that I couldn't have done any of this without my parents and my family. I will treasure the football memories forever and look forward in excited anticipation as the young generation take the baton to new frontiers.

Of course the game has changed considerably since playing days.

Australian football didn't have a reputation to speak of back then, and before globalisation, mobile phones and the internet, the distances of being half way around the world felt much greater than it might appear in today's world.

Agents didn't exist like they do now, and it was very difficult to break through the ranks of overseas clubs.

Still, it was an enjoyable journey, and apart from Joe Marston (Preston North End 1950-58), Alan Davidson (Nottingham Forest 1985), and Craig Johnston (Middlesbrough 1977-81 & Liverpool 1981-88),

there weren't many of us who managed to crack the big time and ply our trade in the European leagues back then. Boyhood dreams coming true indeed and we all live to tell the tale with a few more grey hairs between us all.

I thought it was great that the 1974 World Cup Socceroos recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the occasion by holding a reunion in Hong Kong - the location of course where Jim Mackay famously scored the decisive goal in a play-off match with South Korea back in 1973 to clinch Australia's first ever finals qualification.

Great to see after all these years these pioneers of the game can con-

tinue to uphold the spirit of what it means to play for the Socceroos. Maybe next year the FFA can help organise to send all of us former Socceroos to the World Cup in Brazil! (wink, wink)

It was great to see John Aloisi honoured as well on Wednesday. We all know he's been having a hard time of late getting his troops at Melbourne Heart into gear this season, but I'm sure the tide will turn soon enough.

With only a ten team league, a couple of wins on the trot and you're right back in the mixer for a top six spot.

On that note, perhaps the league should adopt a top four series at

season's end instead. It may actually even help to lift the standard a notch or two. I don't think rewarding 6 out of 10 teams is the right balance.

Anyway, we've got a big round of football this weekend, especially with the Melbourne Derby taking centre stage. Let's hope it lives up to the billing of a Christmas cracker.

Until next time, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and merry Christmas. May you kick some major goals in 2014!

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals.

He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie has just this week been selected in the FFA's Team of the Decade 1981-1989. Eddie writes an occasional column in Goal! Weekly since 2005.



Eddie Krncevic takes to the stage with fellow inductees of the Team of the Decade 1981-89, Alan Davidson and John Kosmina. SBS hosts Les Murray and Lucy Zelic were MC's for the event and are flanked to the left of the stage.

Webpage: www.worldmedia.com.au

Futsalroos take centre stage but can't overcome Pascoe Vale and Vipers

Men's NIKE V-League

To kick off the Men's saw the bottom of the table go at it with Albert Park still searching for their first point in this seasons premiership while Mickleham 'slooked to push closer to the top 6, The game looked as if it would go Mickleham's way before a late strike from Albert Park's George Paschalidis rescued a big point for the Park. Next up saw a slightly understrength Pascoe Vale take on a red hot Metropolitan side it mattered little who was playing for Pascoe at the beginning with the black and white racing out to a 4-1 lead and looking like the game was all but over, Cue former Pascoe man Ernie Simsek scoring 2 very big goals to complete his hat trick and have his side right back in the contest, Alija Redzepovic then tied the score with around 5 minutes remaining and that's the way it stayed more points dropped for Pascoe. An equally big encounter saw top of the table Vipers go head to head with mid table Hume, It was always going to be a struggle but the Vipers prevailed a crucial double from Maxi Avram the difference to give the Vipers an 8 point gap at the top. To close out the card saw Fitzroy take on Ashburton but to be fair it was hardly a contest from the start with Fitzroy blowing the green machine out of the water leading by as much as 11-0 at one stage before closing out a big 13-2 win, Fernando De Moraes back to his best with 4 goals as well as 4 to Mark Burton and a hat trick to youngster Scott Rogan.

Women's PEPSI WPL

To kick off Round 11 saw a red-hot Richmond take on strugglers Heidelberg and in an unconvincing display Richmond took the points 6-3 with Ashleigh Kelly in only her second game for Richmond bagging a brace and picking up the MVP honors. Second up there was some interstate flavor added to a Round 12 clash with Sydney goalkeeper Tani Rosekelly between the sticks for Fitzroy and they were cruising against ladder leader Melbourne Uni leading 4-0 at the half but the second was a much different story want to be champions Melbourne Uni showed why they had only lost once all season battling their way back to a 4-4 draw in a very entertaining clash. To follow the four all thriller saw great rivals Pascoe Vale and Vic Vipers take to the court in what proved a close affair that Pascoe were expected to take the points in, and they did just that with a hard fought 2-1 win Molly Boorman the difference between the two sides with an MVP performance. Backing up for their second game of the night Fitzroy took on a slowly improving Ashburton and with some weary legs the green machine jumped out to a 2-0 lead early on, Fitzroy mounted a comeback but were behind the 8 ball until the final 5 minutes when they leveled the score but could not find a winner sharing the spoils for the second time on the night. Final game for the women saw Melbourne Uni take on EFA Eagles and the signs early on were not good with Melbourne racing out to a 9-0 half time lead, although the Eagles improved

Futsal Oz Scoreboard

PEPSI Women's V-League Premiership

Results	Next Week's Clashes
Friday 13th December	Friday 20th December
Heidelberg FC 3-6 FC Richmond	7:30pm - Richmond vs Pascoe Vale
Fitzroy 4-4 Melbourne Uni	8:15pm - Heidelberg vs Ashburton
Pascoe Vale FC 2-1 Vic Vipers FC	9:00pm - EFA Eagles vs Vic Vipers FC
Ashburton FC 4-4 Fitzroy FC	
Melbourne Uni 12-0 EFA Eagles	

NIKE Men's V-League Premiership

Results	Next Week's Clashes
Albert Park FC 5-5 Mickleham FC	Sunday 22nd December
Pascoe Vale FC 4-4 Metropolitan FC	Metropolitan FC vs Ashburton FC
Vic Vipers FC 3-1 Hume FC	Mickleham FC vs Vic Vipers FC
Ashburton FC 2-13 Fitzroy FC	Hume FC vs Fitzroy FC
	Pascoe Vale FC vs Albert Park FC

Top Goal Scorers

Women's	Mens
1. Marcela Marques - Melb Uni - 29	1. Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan - 24
2. Letizia Sammut - Melb Uni FC - 14	2. Ernie Simsek - Metropolitan - 21
3. Ili Jakab - Pascoe Vale FC - 10	3. Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC - 19
4. Azize Erenli - FC Richmond - 10	4. Ricardo Castro - Ashburton FC - 17
5. Niki Cook - Melbourne Uni - 10	5. Adam Cooper - Vic Vipers FC - 17



Richmond's Kristin Stensholt (L) embraces Wani Sekallarapoulos after scoring a crucial second half goal.



Albert Park's Jose Vasquez was a constant threat on goal as he pushes past Mickleham's Eric Huynh.



Melbourne Uni's Niki Cook gets the better of Fitzroy's New South Wales guest keeper, Tani Rosekelly.



Fitzroy's Joao Silveria rounds and scores past Ashburton's Con Makris who had a torrid time in goals.

Standings

NIKE V-LEAGUE Premiership												
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts			
1 Vic Vipers FC	13	12	1	0	0	72	40	+32	36			
2 Pascoe Vale FC	13	9	3	0	1	77	40	+37	28			
3 Metropolitan FC	13	8	3	0	2	95	62	+33	26			
4 Fitzroy FC	13	8	4	0	1	76	52	+24	25			
5 Hume FC	13	4	7	0	2	69	53	+16	14			
6 Ashburton FC	13	4	7	0	2	55	71	-16	14			
7 Mickleham FC	13	2	10	0	1	53	97	-44	7			
8 Albert Park FC	13	0	12	0	1	38	120	-82	1			

Pepsi Womens WV-LEAGUE												
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts			
1 Melbourne Uni FC	12	10	1	0	1	78	17	+61	31			
2 FC Richmond	10	8	1	0	1	57	29	+28	25			
3 Fitzroy FC	12	7	3	0	2	46	48	-2	23			
4 Pascoe Vale FC	10	6	4	0	0	51	18	+33	18			
5 Vic Vipers FC	11	3	6	0	2	32	38	-6	11			
6 Ashburton FC	10	2	6	0	2	33	59	-26	8			
7 EFA Eagles	10	2	8	0	0	22	63	-41	6			
8 Heidelberg FC	11	1	10	0	0	20	67	-47	3			

State League Championship												
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts			
1 CF Brunswick	13	10	0	0	3	85	51	+34	33			
2 FC Balwyn	12	8	3	0	1	87	49	+38	25			
3 Moreland FC	13	7	4	0	2	73	57	+16	23			
4 FC Carlton	11	4	4	0	3	57	47	+10	15			
5 Brimbank FC	13	4	6	0	3	72	96	-24	15			
6 FC Melbourne	12	4	7	0	1	64	60	+4	13			
7 FC Northcote	12	3	8	0	1	43	67	-24	10			
8 FC Essendon	12	2	10	0	0	43	97	-54	6			

State League One												
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts			
1 FC Collingwood	13	11	2	0	0	64	30	+34	33			
2 Brighton FC	13	9	2	0	2	73	38	+35	29			
3 CF South Melb	13	8	4	0	1	75	51	+24	25			
4 FC Prahran	13	6	3	0	4	63	45	+18	22			
5 Toorak FC	13	5	6	0	2	44	58	-14	17			
6 FC Hawthorn	13	5	7	0	1	58	59	-1	16			
7 Coburg Athletic	13	2	11	0	0	38	83	-45	6			
8 FC Footscray	13	1	12	0	0	42	93	-51	3			

State League Two												
	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts			
1 Doncaster FC	13	10	3	0	0	56	39	+17	30			
2 FC Preston	13	10	3	0	0	56	42	+14	30			
3 Moleod FC	13	7	4	0	2	63	54	+9	23			
4 FC Richmond	13	7	6	0	0	66	63	+3	21			
5 FC Geelong	13	4	8	0	1	75	59	+16	13			
6 EFA Eagles	13	4	8	0	1	53	68	-15	13			
7 FC St Kilda	13	4	9	0	0	55	65	-10	12			
8 Elsternwick FC	13	4	9	0	0	46	57	-11	12			



Fitzroy's Dani Gudelj is pounced upon by team mate Stacey Papadopoulos after her sizzling strike to level the scores.

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(5 to 15 year olds)
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
- Elite Leagues (boys & girls)
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Training

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- Elite training
High level training includes goal keeper training
- Junior training
from beginners to elite
(see 'ALL Juniors– Boys & Girls 'from 2 years to 16 years of age')

Juniors

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Fun way to start the ball rolling during school hours (1 to 5 year olds)
- Junior Oz Clinics
Beginners introduction to Futsal (3 to 9 years old)
- School Holiday Program
Every school holidays Futsal all day training & games
- Social Junior Leagues
Create a team, for fun weekly scheduled matches (Mixed boys & Girls)

Elite Juniors

- Futsal training
INNER City FC for teams & individuals– skills, tactics & match (twice a week + match)
- Elite Futsal League
Join an elite Club, elite skills, technic, tactics & fitness, includes representative squads interstate and overseas tournaments.
- Elite Futsal training
high level training includes goal keeper training

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English Premier League



Liverpool Condemn Villas-Boas

It was a result that surprised many, but its aftermath didn't. Liverpool's 5-0 thrashing of Tottenham at White Hart Lane on Sunday night was the "most complete performance" according to Reds boss, Brendan Rodgers.

"It was fantastic," Rodgers told Sky Sports. "It was everything we'd wanted out of the game."

"First and foremost, our work-rate, how we pressed the ball as a team, was outstanding and that earned us the right to play."

"We got five goals and could easily have had seven or eight. That was probably the most complete performance since I've been here, and just continues the evolution of what we're trying to do."

Liverpool were dominant from the start, and were up 2-0 by the half-time break, thanks to goals from Jordan Henderson and of course, Luis Suarez.

In the second half, Spurs were dealt a massive blow when Paulinho was sent off. From there, Liverpool increased the pressure, with Raheem Sterling, Jon Flanagan and another from Suarez made it a polished performance from the visitors.

Unsurprisingly, Suarez was named man of the match. His two goals brought his tally up to 17 for the season, but its easy to forget that he missed the first five games due to suspension.

It was also a special occasion for the Uruguayan, as he was named



Hit for six: Man City demolished Arsenal and the scoreboard doesn't lie.

captain for the match. It represents a massive change in the controversial figure, that Rodgers would name him leader of the team, in Steven Gerrard's absence.

Least to say Suarez excelled in the role, and his dashing performance, as well as bringing universal praise, also put one man out of the job.

24-hours after the shattering loss, Tottenham boss, Andre Villas-Boas was duly sacked by the club, or departed by "mutual consent", depending on whom you believe.

The sacking is a strange considering just how well Tottenham are placed this year. Currently, it is in seventh place, only five points off the top four.

But this was the second massive loss in a number of weeks for Spurs, following it's 6-0 hammering by Manchester City.

The Spurs board, and chairman David Levy saw fit that two massive defeats in less than a month was too much to handle.

Rumours are flying around that Villas-Boas had numerous personal issues with a host of players, as well as Director of Football, Franco Baldini. There were reports that his tactics and playing style did not suit

well for the players, which resulted in the players being lost and confused when the games came along. Surprisingly, Villas-Boas has gotten some support from the man he replaced, current Queens Park Rangers boss, Harry Redknapp.

"I think people are over-reacting too quickly," Redknapp told talkSPORT. "You lose a couple of games now and you're in trouble, it shouldn't be like that."

"You either think somebody is good at their job or not and when you appoint someone you should give them time and let them do the job."


"But it's far too early for people to start wanting to pull the plug on him, you've got to give him time and see what he can do."

The question now for Tottenham is who will replace Villas-Boas? Currently, Tim Sherwood has taken over the reigns as caretaker until the board decides who they really want to manage the team.

EPL Preview.
It's the Christmas period in England, which means there will be an increase of Premier League games flooding your television screens over the next fortnight. Least to

ENGLAND

EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Arsenal	16	11	2	3	33	17	+16	35	L D W W W
2 Liverpool	16	10	3	3	39	18	+21	33	W W W L D
3 Chelsea	16	10	3	3	32	18	+14	33	W L W W W
4 Manchester City	16	10	2	4	47	18	+29	32	W D W W W
5 Everton	16	8	7	1	27	15	+12	31	W D W W D
6 Newcastle United	16	8	3	5	21	22	-1	27	D W L W W
7 Tottenham Hotspur	16	8	3	5	15	21	-6	27	L W W D L
8 Manchester United	16	7	4	5	25	19	+6	25	W L L D D
9 Southampton	16	6	6	4	20	15	+5	24	D D L L L
10 Swansea City	16	5	5	6	22	21	+1	20	D D W L W
11 Aston Villa	16	5	4	7	16	21	-5	19	L L W D D
12 Hull City	16	5	4	7	13	19	-6	19	D D L W L
13 Stoke City	16	4	6	6	15	20	-5	18	D W D L W
14 Norwich City	16	5	3	8	15	29	-14	18	D W L W L
15 Cardiff City	16	4	5	7	12	22	-10	17	W L D L D
16 West Bromwich ...	16	3	6	7	17	22	-5	15	L L L L D
17 West Ham United	16	3	5	8	13	19	-6	14	D L L W L
18 Crystal Palace	16	4	1	11	11	24	-13	13	L W W L W
19 Fulham	16	4	1	11	15	30	-15	13	L W L L L
20 Sunderland	16	2	3	11	12	30	-18	9	D L L D L

say, it's a good thing.

We'll start with the league leaders, Arsenal, who has another title rival in Chelsea on Christmas Eve (Our time) to face off.

Following on from its 6-3 beating by Manchester City, the Gunners will be looking to bounce back in great fashion by defeating a Mourinho-owned team. Never once has Arsene Wenger defeated a Jose Mourinho-led side in any competition. Maybe this is the time to break the duck.

Chelsea has problems of its own, with its patchy form, drawing lots of criticism. It pushed through to defeat Crystal Palace 2-1 last weekend, but was outperformed by Sunderland in the Capital One Cup midweek, where it lost 2-1 in extra time.

Mourinho has said that might have to change the team's attacking style in order to get results more effectively.

"We are going in one direction and the right direction but it is quite frustrating," said the Portuguese.

"Football is about getting results and it's quite frustrating as we may have to take a step back in order to be more consistent at the back."

"It's something I don't want to do,

to play more counterattacking, but I'm giving it serious thought. If I want to win 1-0 I think I can as I think it is one of the easiest things in football. It is not so difficult, as you don't give players the chance to express themselves."

Manchester City has no such concerns with its own style. It is the division's leading scorers, with 47 goals and on its day, plays the best football in the league.

However, it will have to contend with injuries when it faces Fulham at Craven Cottage on the weekend. Star striker, Sergio Aguero and fellow Argentine, Pablo Zabaleta are both out with serious injuries.

Of Aguero, manager Manuel Pellegrini said: "I'm not a doctor, so it is very difficult to say."

"The doctor said that he has had at least one month. Or eight weeks. We'll see. I don't know how many weeks but it will be at least one month."

Next-door neighbours, Manchester United, also have injury concerns with Robin Van Persie being ruled out for a month. However, it didn't prove to be a problem last weekend, as it cruised to a 3-0 win over Aston Villa.

Danny Welbeck scored twice, but owes his recent form to the words of David Moyes.

"I've got to say we had a word with him about a month ago and said that he needs to be the last off the training field," Moyes said.

"Wayne is out there practising his finishing each day, whether it's taking free-kicks, shooting from tight angles or bending them in."

"Whatever it may be, Wayne is practising and I said, 'Danny, you need to be out there every day finishing, even if it's 15 minutes at the end'."

"So we just said, every day, give yourself and extra 10-15 minutes at the end of every session and practice all different types of finishing – inside the box, outside the box, heading – and let's see if we can get more goals from you."

Moyes will be hoping that Welbeck continues his new streak when United welcomes West Ham to Old Trafford.

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Rodgers and Suarez key to Liverpool resurgence



Second in the league and only two points off the top; it's been a fantastic start to the season for Liverpool.

After a summer of controversy and speculation – mainly surrounding a certain Luis Suarez – the Reds have been hugely impressive in their pursuit of a first league title in over 20 years.

It's not since 1990 that the men from Anfield have been crowned champions and although they have had European and domestic cup success in the mean time, the English league title has deserted them.

Liverpool's desire for the Premier League has grown even more in recent years due to their fierce rivals Manchester United overtaking their previous record for league titles but this campaign looks their best chance to claim the trophy that has eluded them for so long.

One man who has to take a lot of credit for the resurgence of the club is manager Brendan Rodgers.

The former Swansea boss has installed a strong passing mentality within the squad with particular emphasis on ball retention that has seen his team return to the top of the division.

But it is not just pointless keep ball. Rodgers team penetrate with great pace through wide and central areas, with the midfield often getting beyond the strikers adding dangerous numbers to their attacks.

In defence as well they are one of the best at deploying a high press.

It may not be used as far up the pitch as we see with Southampton but when Liverpool pressurise their opposition they do so at a ferocious pace. Their recent 5-0 win away at Tottenham was an example of how quickly they get the ball back and from their they have the creative talent to pick sides apart.

Another masterstroke from the Red's boss was to keep hold of star man Suarez. The Uruguayan, who was subject of a bid from Arsenal in the summer, has been nothing short of inspirational this term and leads the Premier League top goal scorers chart with 17 – which is more than ten clubs have managed in the league this season.

Without a doubt Liverpool would not be in the position they are at the moment without their talisman – he is the equivalent of what Gareth Bale provided for Tottenham last season – and as we have seen with Bale, when those types of players leave they are hard to replace. But the Merseyside outfit have not just had to rely on Suarez.

Daniel Sturridge has been impressive and, up to his injury, was matching his striker partner for goals and extravagancy – his chip against West Brom a particular highlight. The England forward has acceleration and pace that allows Suarez to drop into the gaps between defence and midfield and together they have formed a 'SAS' partnership to compete against the original one in Shearer and Sutton.

The pair have been formidable and as a result have been regarded by many as the best partnership in the division. And when you have Rob-in Van Perise and Wayne Rooney and Sergio Aguero and Alvaro Negredo to compete against it speaks volumes about how well they have



Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring Liverpool's fourth goal in the 5-0 spanking of Spurs.

done.

Behind the front two the ammunition from midfield has been superb and again this falls at the feet of Rodgers because of the confidence he has given them.

Jordan Henderson, who looked short of the quality required at Anfield last year, has come on immensely this season. The former Sunderland man has added goals and assists to his game on top of an industrious work rate that could see him feature in England's World cup squad in Brazil 2014 – a distant thought six months ago.

Alongside Henderson has been the consistent Lucas and Steven Gerrard, who have delivered what you would expect from such a talented midfield duo and together these three provide the drive to get pos-

sition back so quickly.

Their endeavour, and quality, is complimented exceptionally by the flair of Philippe Coutinho. The Brazilian's presence in the eleven allows the likes of Gerrard to feed him the ball in areas where Coutinho can provide chances for Suarez and Sturridge.

The combination of Gerrard and Coutinho is similar to when the English captain was paired with Xabi Alonso in the Liverpool team previously. Then, Gerrard would play further up the field, Alonso would seek to find him with almost every forward pass and allow him to create opportunities for Fernando Torres. With this formula the Reds, under Rafael Benitez, finished second with 86 points and only narrowly missed out on the

title – maybe with different personnel this time round they could go one better.

In attack and midfield the Merseyside outfit look strong. But at the back they maybe lack the strength needed to maintain a title charge. So far Rodgers has struggled to find a regular centre back duo, chopping and changing between Daniel Agger, Martin Skrtel, Kolo Toure and Mamadou Sakho. All four have their own attributes: Agger has the ability to play from the back, Skrtel loves throwing his body into harms way, Toure has plenty of experience and Sakho has immense physical stature but a partnership has yet to be formed.

The indecision at the back could prove decisive if the goals dry up for Suarez but with such an excel-

lent team defensive press it could be masked over.

For the first time in a long while Liverpool fans have genuine hope their side could challenge for the Premier League and if the likes of Suarez, Coutinho and Gerrard remain fit and firing then they're real contenders.

If they can maintain the intensity in their defensive system it adds to their credentials as potential champions and after such a good start to their season they're in the perfect position to push on.

A return to the good times could be around the corner for Liverpool.

Suárez Fast Facts

Full name :
Luis Alberto Suárez Díaz

Date of birth: 24 January 1987
Age: 26
Place of birth: Salto, Uruguay
Height: 1.81 m (5 ft 11 in)[1]

Youth career
2003–2005 Nacional

Senior career		
Years	Team	Apps (Gls)
2005–2006	Nacional	27 (10)
2006–2007	Groningen	29 (10)
2007–2011	Ajax	110 (81)
2011–	Liverpool	88 (55)

National team
2006–2007 Uruguay U20 4 (2)
2007– Uruguay 71 (39)

Lanus Win Sudamericana But Miss Out On League Title



Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

Argentina's Lanús scored two first half goals to beat Ponte Preta of Brazil 2-0 last Wednesday and win the regional Copa Sudamericana 3-1 on aggregate.

The club from the outskirts of Buenos Aires however could not replicate their success in the domestic front as they only managed a draw to Newell's Old Boys 2-2 away in Rosario and missed out on the league title.

It was San Lorenzo instead who have won the Argentine Torneo Inicial championship this week with a 0-0 draw at Vélez Sarsfield.

San Lorenzo, coached by former Barcelona and Spain forward Juan Antonio Pizzi had returned to managing in Argentina after a stint at Universidad Católica in Chile to return to Rosario Central before taking the post manage to win the Inicial championship with 33 points from 19 matches, two more than Vélez, Newell's and the recent Copa Sudamericana winners Lanús.

It was San Lorenzo's 12th league title in the professional era and first since the 2007 Clausura championship.

"We were one of the teams that most tried to play (good football) and among those that did it best," said forward Ignacio Piatti, San Lorenzo's top scorer with eight goals.

"We won a very even tournament of a very high standard... leaving the two biggest clubs with the two top coaches by the wayside," said Pizzi, referring to Boca Juniors and River Plate.

San Lorenzo made hard work of getting over the line with two scoreless draws in their last two matches. A home win over Estudiantes two weeks ago would have settled the championship.

The club is heavily followed by Pope Francis and were indebted to the heroics of goalkeeper Sebastián Torrico for two brilliant saves that kept them in the match at Vélez's El Fortín stadium.

Meanwhile in Rosario in an exciting clash at the Marcelo Bielsa stadium, Newell's looked set to take the title race to a playoff against San Lorenzo on Wednesday before substitute Jorge



Juan Antonio Pizzi (left) wins his first Argentine league title with San Lorenzo this week

Pereyra Diaz headed Lanús's equalizer 15 minutes from time.

Newell's, won the Final championship which is Argentina's first semester championship under Gerardo Martino last season before heading to Barcelona, failed to win any of their last eight matches and managed only five points during the slump.

All four goals came in an absorbing second half on Sunday, with good football from both Newell's and Lanús, who won the regional Copa Sudamericana last Wednesday.

Midfielder Pablo Pérez put the home side ahead in the 54th minute when he found a small gap between goalkeeper Agustin Marchesin and the post.

A minute later, Lanús centre back Paolo Goltz equalized with a header from a free kick, though video replays suggested he had strayed into an off-side position.

Newell's went ahead again with an own goal from defender Carlos Izquierdoz. Milton Casco's angled shot looked off target but the ball hit Izquierdoz full in the chest and went in.

There was time for more drama and Pereyra Diaz headed home at the near post to make it 2-2, sparking celebrations by San Lorenzo fans in the capital as the news came through.

LANÚS WINS COPA SUDAMERICANA
Paraguayan defender Victor Ayala put the home side one up in the 24th minute and striker Ismael Blanco, man of the match, increased their lead at the Ciudad de Lanús stadium in the second minute of added time in the first half.

It was the third title won by Lanús, a modest club from the Buenos Aires outskirts, after the now defunct Copa Conmebol in 1996 and the 2007 Apertura championship, their only Argentine league title.

"This title cost us a lot of sacrifice, we are a squad that wanted to win things and we achieved that, it's a great joy for the club," Lanús goalkeeper Agustin Marchesin told reporters.

"I felt I owed the team a goal and mine turned out to (be the one) to secure victory," said Blanco.

Ponte Preta, relegated from the Brazilian first division last month, fell at the last hurdle after shocking holders Sao Paulo by eliminating them in their semi-final.

Ayala began the move that led to the opening goal in midfield and finished it after taking a pass from Blanco inside the box to slot the ball past goalkeeper Roberto.

Blanco scored the second from fellow Uruguayan forward Santiago Silva's header into the middle at a corner.

The Copa Sudamericana is South America's second club competition, played out from July to December each year.

LEON WIN MEXICAN TITLE
León won the Mexican championship and denied América coach Miguel Herrera a winning farewell with a 3-1 upset victory at the Azteca Stadium last Sunday.

Herrera had hoped to clinch a second successive league title with América before taking charge of Mexico for the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil but his side lost 5-1 on aggregate following a 2-0 defeat in the first leg last Thursday.

León, promoted this season, clinched their sixth league title and first in 21 years with goals from Argentine forward Mauro Boselli, who had also scored in the 2-0 first leg victory, and defenders Ignacio González and Edwin Hernández.

Herrera was given the Mexico job full time after steering them through a playoff against New Zealand on an interim basis from América.

"I'm very happy, I worked extremely hard to get here," León defender and Mexico captain Rafael Márquez was quoted as saying on El Universal's sports website.

"I think many took me for dead but today I can show them what I've achieved, I put all my heart into this," added the 34-year-old, who returned home from the New York Red Bulls this year to wind down his career at León and could now be set for a fourth World Cup.

Boselli, a Libertadores Cup winner with Argentina's Estudiantes de La Plata in 2009, took his championship goals tally to 11 when he opened the scoring in the 12th minute.

América equalised four minutes before halftime thanks to an own goal by Gonzalez, who deflected a shot from midfielder Rubens Sambueza into the net.

The home side then played the final 35 minutes a man down after defender Francisco Rodríguez was sent off for bringing down goal-bound Matías Britos.

González and Hernández rubbed salt in América's wounds with two goals in the final 18 minutes and Herrera was sent to the stands for dissent.

Argentine coach Antonio Mohamed,

who managed Xolos of Tijuana to their first league title last year, will replace Herrera at América for the Clausura championship starting next month in January.

FLUMINENSE SAVED FROM RELEGATION
A ruling by Brazil's sports tribunal last Monday saved Fluminense from being relegated to the second division of the Brazilian league next year.

The four-time Brazilian champion will be allowed to stay in the top flight because another team was docked points for using a suspended player in the tournament's final round.

The player was on the field for about 15 minutes and the match had no implication in the final outcome of the tournament, but the tribunal unanimously ruled that Portuguesa should be docked four points because of the irregularity, dropping it below Fluminense in the 20-team standings.

The hearing was broadcast live by most sports channels in Brazil and hundreds of fans from several clubs protested outside the tribunal.

Portuguesa fans arrived from Sao Paulo in two buses to protest, calling for "justice" in football. Fluminense supporters also were present, and their loud chants were clearly heard inside the tribunal. There was increased police security to separate the fans in Rio de Janeiro.

Portuguesa, whose biggest achievement was a runner-up finish in the 1996 Brazilian league, is expected to appeal the ruling and even threatened to take the case outside the sports courts, meaning a final decision may not come before the end of the year.

The club last played in the second division in 2011.

It is not the first time Fluminense benefits from an off-the-field ruling to avoid relegation. The club was relegated for the first time in 1996 but remained in the top flight because of supposed refereeing irregularities at the time. Fluminense was relegated again in 1997 and then dropped to the third flight the following year, but a change in the competition's format allowed the club to move straight into the first division in 2000.

Fluminense won its match in the final round on December 8 but at the time that was not enough to avoid becoming the first defending Brazilian champion to be relegated.



2013/14 UEFA Champions League

Round of 16 Draw

- Manchester City FC (ENG) v FC Barcelona (ESP)
- Olympiacos FC (GRE) v Manchester United FC (ENG)
- AC Milan (ITA) v Club Atlético de Madrid (ESP)
- Bayer 04 Leverkusen (GER) v Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
- Galatasaray A.S. (TUR) v Chelsea FC (ENG)
- FC Schalke 04 (GER) v Real Madrid CF (ESP)
- Football Club Zenit (RUS) v Borussia Dortmund (GER)
- Arsenal FC (ENG) v FC Bayern München (GER)

2013/14 UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Result of the draw

- FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (UKR) v Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG)
- Real Betis Balompié (ESP) v FC Rubin Kazan (RUS)
- Swansea City FC (ENG) v SSC Napoli (ITA)
- Juventus (ITA) v Trabzonspor AS (TUR)
- NK Maribor (SVN) v Sevilla FC (ESP)
- FC Viktoria Plzen (CZE) v FC Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR)
- FC Chornomorets Odesa (UKR) v Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)
- S.S. Lazio (ITA) v PFC Ludogorets 1945 (BUL)
- Esbjerg fB (DEN) v ACF Fiorentina (ITA)
- AFC Ajax (NED) v FC Salzburg (AUT)
- Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC (ISR) v FC Basel 1893 (SUI)
- FC Porto (POR) v Eintracht Frankfurt (GER)
- FC Anji (RUS) v KRC Genk (BEL)
- FC Dynamo Kyiv (UKR) v Valencia CF (ESP)
- PAOK FC (GRE) v SL Benfica (POR)
- FC Slovan Liberec (CZE) v AZ (NED)

Holdes Bayern draw Arsenal in Champions League

Holdes Bayern Munich have been paired with Arsenal in one of the standout UEFA Champions League last-16 ties.

The two sides met at the same stage of last season's competition, Bayern triumphing on away goals after a 3-3 aggregate score.

Bayern went on to beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in May's final, part of an unprecedented treble in German football under the stewardship of Jupp Heynckes, with the Bundesliga and DFB-Pokal titles completing their impressive trophy haul.

Arsenal have progressed from the initial group stage for the 14th straight year, and - despite being ousted by Bayern at this stage last season - will take heart from a 2-0 victory at the Allianz Arena in the second leg of last season's tie.

Manchester City's reward for a first

appearance in the knockout stages is a difficult encounter against Spanish champions Barcelona.

Gerardo Martino's men are looking to win the tournament for the first time since 2011 when they defeated Manchester United 3-1 at Wembley.

Last season's beaten finalists Dortmund face Zenit St Petersburg, while Real Madrid have been paired with Schalke.

Didier Drogba will make an emotional return to Chelsea after Galatasaray were drawn against his former employers.

The 35-year-old - who enjoyed an eight-year spell at Stamford Bridge - scored the winning spot-kick in Chelsea's 4-3 penalty shootout triumph over Bayern in the 2012 final.

David Moyes' Manchester United face Greek opposition in the form



of Olympiacos, and Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain will meet Bayer Leverkusen in the first competitive meeting between the two sides.

In the other last-16 tie, La Liga high-flyers Atletico Madrid square



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Wanderers open season account against Glory

By Katie Lambeski

This W-League season just keeps on delivering, as the recent round saw a might upset and two contenders fight to a draw. Western Sydney rallied back to form with some key players returning as Canberra returned to the winner's list with a 3-0 win over Newcastle.

Melbourne Victory will have to be wondering how they didn't defeat Sydney FC at Allianz Stadium on Sunday afternoon, having to settle for a 1-1 draw instead. Emma Kete's 33rd minute opener came out of nowhere as Victory were made to pay for not capitalizing on their early dominance, a recurring theme throughout the match, but made it an interesting last ten minutes as Jess Fishlock finished well past Casey Dumont to level the scores.

Dumont was forced into action many times over the match, as the marauding attacking half of Enza Barilla, Lisa de Vanna and Caitlin Friend caused countless problems. Victory appear to be reaching somewhere near what they are capable of and finding out what their best looks like as all of the off-season signings have arrived. Sydney FC appeared their organized selves, but appeared to be adjusting back to the W-League after two weeks in Japan.

Adelaide United stunned Brisbane Roar at QSAC on Sunday, a goal from substitute Daniela Di Bartolo on the 73rd minute the difference maker from a resilient and organized Adelaide United side that has surprised many under the new Ross Aloisi regime. It was often a cagey match that had its moments, as well as some chances for both sides and great goal-keeping from Nadine Angerer and Melissa Barbieri.

It didn't appear to be Brisbane's



Perth Glory keeper Chantel Jones is stranded as the ball flies into the net for the Wanderers.

day as they conceded a penalty and subsequently lost Laura Alleway to a red card just five minutes in to the match. Adelaide's Tais-Borg failed to convert, but negotiating the rest of a match played in warm conditions was always going to be a challenge for Belinda Wilson's Roar side. Roar's winger Hayley Raso was prominent and tireless throughout, creating chances that her teammates just failed to grasp.

Back in action after a week off (bye weekend due to Sydney's FC Club World Cup commitments) and welcoming back Heather Garriock, Mackenzie Arnold and Alana Kennedy, Western Sydney put a shaky start to season to bed with a 3-0 win

over Perth Glory at Marconi Stadium on Saturday. Garriock, Helen Petinos and Jenna Kingsley all got on the scoresheet to set the win.

Perth, without Kate Gill, struggled to create without their focal point despite holding their own at times throughout the first half. Garriock's second was the pick of the bunch, pouncing on a penalty area ball and chipping over Perth keeper Chantel Jones to have the Wanderers in control. Kingsley's smart strike at the right post sealed the result on 75th minute. Catherine Cannuli's influence on the match was felt, providing the difference that Perth had missed with Gill's absence.

Despite a valiant effort from the

Newcastle Jets, it wasn't enough to avoid a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Canberra United on Saturday at Newcastle's Wanderers Oval. Canberra did the damage early as Stephanie Ochs and Michelle Heyman got on the scoresheet on the 11th and 12th minute respectively. Ochs put the result beyond doubt on the hour mark after placing her shot from the right flank of the box to left corner.

The Jets continued their trend of solid efforts to their solid efforts till the final whistle, but are clearly lacking the experience and nous to trouble teams. The loss of lead playmaker Madeline Searl to a knee injury fifteen minutes into the

match didn't help matters. Adriana Jones almost secured a consolation goal late for the Jets after breaking into the right side of the penalty area, only to skew her shot into the side netting.

Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United will kick off round six of the W-League at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Saturday at 3pm, with Canberra United heading over to Perth rounding off the Saturday fixtures.

Western Sydney will have the best chance to capitalize on their newfound form when they host Newcastle on Sunday at 3pm. The match of the round between Brisbane Roar and Sydney FC at Brisbane's Goodwin Park will also kickoff at 3pm.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Melbourne Victory	5	3	1	1	13	7	10
2 Canberra United	4	3	0	1	8	1	9
3 Brisbane Roar	5	3	0	2	8	5	3
4 Sydney FC	3	2	1	0	10	2	8
5 Adelaide United	5	2	1	2	5	5	0
6 Perth Glory	5	2	0	3	7	11	-4
7 WS Wanderers	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2
8 Newcastle Jets	5	0	0	5	3	21	-18

Next Round

Sat 21 Dec KO 3:00pm
Melbourne Victory Vs Adelaide Utd
Kingston Heath, Melbourne

Sat 21 Dec KO 5:00pm
Perth Glory Vs Canberra United
Percy Doyle Reserve, Duncraig

Sun 22 Dec KO 3:00pm
Brisbane Roar Vs Sydney FC
Goodwin Park

Sun 22 Dec KO 3:00pm
Wanderers Vs Newcastle Jets
Centrebet Stadium

Round 5 Review

Western Sydney Wanderers 3 (Helen Petinos 45+2', Heather Garriock 61', Jenna Kingsley 75')

Perth Glory 0
Marconi Stadium, Sydney
Referee: Lara Smith

Western Sydney Wanderers: Mackenzie Arnold (Gk), Caitlin Cooper, Shawna Gordon, Camille Levin, Emily Van Egmond, Jenna Kingsley, Catherine Cannuli (Jess Seaman 88'), Teigen Allen, Alanna Kennedy, Linda O'Neill (Heather Garriock 55'), Helen Petinos (Michelle Carney 71')
Substitutes – Georgia Rowntree (Gk)
Cautions – CathErine Cannuli 53', Alanna Kennedy 55'

Perth Glory: Chantel Jones (Gk), Sarah Carroll, Cecile Sandvej, Bronwyn Studman, Sasha Andrews (Thia Eastman 44'), Rosie Sutton, Elisa D'ovidio (Shannon May 74'), Collette Mccallum, Marianna Tabain, Shawn Billam (Ella Mastrantonio 63'), Christina Julien
Substitutes – Kathleen Waycott (Gk)
Cautions – Collette Mccallum 22', Cecile Sandvej 25', Elisa D'ovidio 55', Bronwyn Studman 64', 85'
Red Card: Bronwyn Studman 85'

Newcastle Jets 0
Canberra United 3 (Stephanie Ochs 11', 62', Michelle Heyman 12')
Wanderers Oval, Newcastle
Referee: Katie Patterson

Newcastle Jets: Eliza Campbell (Gk), Hannah Brewer, Stacey Day (Siahn Bozanic 71'), Ashley Spina, Gema Simon, Maddie Searl (Jasmin Courteney 15', Adriana Jones 84'), Tara Andrews, Rhali Dobson, Hannah Beard, Cassidy Davis, Lauren Brown
Substitutes – Claire Coelho
Cautions – Nil

Canberra United: Lydia Williams (Gk), Catherine Brown, Kendall Fletcher, Elie Brush, Grace Gill (Jenni BisSet 51'), Michelle Heyman (Meg Mclaughlin 75'), Sally Rohajn, Nicole Sykes, Ashleigh Sykes (Georgia Yeoman-Dale 81'), Lori Lindsey, Stephanie Ochs
Substitutes – Trudy Burke (Gk)
Cautions – Sally Rohajn 29', Catherine Brown 40'

Brisbane Roar 0
Adelaide United 1 (Daniela Di Bartolo 75')
QSAC, Brisbane
Referee: Kate Jacewicz

Brisbane Roar: Nadine Angerer (Gk), Laura Alleway, Amy Chapman, Clare Polkinghorne, Brooke Spence (Natasha Wheeler 80'), Kim Carroll, Elise Kellond-Knight, Larissa Crummer (Joanne Burgess 46'), Katrina Gorry, Vedrana Popovic (Ayesha Kirby 70'), Hayley Raso
Substitutes – Kate Stewart (Gk)
Cautions – Nil
Red Card – Laura Alleway 5'

Adelaide United: Melissa Barbieri (Gk), Alexandra Gummer, Jessie Wharepour, Rachael Quigley (Tegan Riding 54'), Lisa-Marie Woods, Daila-Tais Borg, Jayah Brown (Daniela Di Bartolo 56'), Jenna McCormick, Tiarn Powell (Laura Stockdale 60'), Snež Veljanovska, Kristy Moore
Substitutes – Kelly Barltrop (Gk)
Cautions – Kristy Moore 49', Melissa Barbieri 85'

Sydney FC 1 (Emma Kete 33')
Melbourne Victory 1 (Jessica Fishlock 81')
Allianz Stadium, Sydney
Referee: Casey Reibelt

Sydney FC: Casey Dumont (Gk), Teresa Polias, Alesha Clifford, Nicola Bolger, Caitlin Foord (Liz Ralston 91'), Renee Rollason, Anna Green, Trudy Camilleri (Amy Harrison 68'), Ellyse Perry, Emma Kete, Sam Kerr (Chloe Logarzo 63')
Substitutes – Sham Khamis (Gk)
Cautions – Alesha CliffoRd 30'

Melbourne Victory: Brianna Davey (Gk), Jessica Humble, Katie Hoyle, Stephanie Catley, Caitlin Friend (Beatrice Goad 88'), Jessica Fishlock, Lisa De Vanna, Jessica Samuelsson, Enza Barilla, Emma Checker, Gulcan Koca (Laura Spiranovic 74')
Substitutes – Cassandra Dimovski (Gk), Alexandra Natoli
Cautions – Enza Barilla 79', Jessica Fishlock 93'



Western Sydney's Jenna Kingsley (9) celebrates her goal with a high team salute and a fellow team mate.



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A-LEAGUE



Sydney FC have secured top spot for the Christmas break in the National Youth League following a 4-1 trouncing of local rivals Western Sydney Wanderers in Round 8.

The Sky Blues were simply too strong for the Wanderers, and Corey Gameiro continued his impressive return from injury by scoring the opener.

Anthony Tomelic and Daniel Petkovski made it 3-0 in the second half before Lawrence Hanna pulled one back for the hosts, but the three goal advantage was restored by Joshua McDonald late in the game.

Sydney have racked up an impressive tally of 24 goals in their eight games so far this season, and that has translated into a five point lead at the summit, ahead of Newcastle Jets.

The Jets have been in great form of late, winning four games on the bounce coming into their clash against Melbourne Heart.

But they were unable to defeat their opponents despite them having Ross Archibald sent off.

Ben Garuccio's strike for Heart meant that the clash ended 1-1, while the young winger once again reminded the senior team what he can offer.

The draw was a relief for Heart, who have arrested a slump of three defeats in a row.

They now head into next week's clash against the Wanderers requiring a win to stay in touch with the

SFC on top for Christmas break

midfield pack. Brisbane Roar sit fifth in the table at the moment and that has largely been down to their inconsistent form over the season.

They travelled to Canberra to face the AIS and played out arguably the match of the round, which ended 4-4.

Both sides traded the lead before the AIS went 4-2 ahead, thanks mostly to the busy Marc Marino, who was causing Brisbane all sorts of problems.

He scored the second goal to equalise at 2-2, while laying on an assist and playing a big part in their other two goals.

Brisbane never gave up the fight though and found an equaliser through Brandon Borello, and the same player could have won it for them at the death.

It wasn't to be for Brisbane, who can take positives out of Samad Altundag's brace as he continues his scoring streak.

Another player to score two goals on the weekend was Andrew Nabbout, returning to the Melbourne Victory Youth team and keeping up his impressive goal tally this season.

Victory were far too good for Perth Glory, who never really got going in the match.

Christopher Cristaldo and Damien Miskulin put Victory 2-0 up before Nabbout's contributions, while Brandon O'Neill got a consolation goal for Perth.

It was another disappointing outing for the West Australians, who have looked more like a side making up the numbers in the Youth



Daniel Petkovski salutes after scoring for Sydney FC in the derby against Western Sydney Wanderers.

League. The only team keeping Perth from propping up the table has been Central Coast Mariners, who are still without a win. Adelaide United became the latest team to beat them, even after lead-

Results	
Melbourne Victory 4 (Cristaldo 32m, Miskulin 62m, Nabbout 64m, 90+3m)	Perth Glory 1 (O'Neill 72m)
AIS 4 (Dylan Smith 8', Marc Marino 27', Marc Ochieng 48', Lachlan Jackson 70' (og))	Brisbane Roar 4 (Mitchell Hore 13', Samad Altundag 23', 72', Brandon Borello 80')
Adelaide United 4 (Milesunic 59, Costa 65, Bladen 70, Konstandopoulos 83)	Central Coast Mariners 2 (Kwasnik 11, Fitzgerald 44)
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Lawrence Hanna 77')	Sydney FC 4 (Corey Gameiro 28', Anthony Tomelic 64', Daniel Petkovski 71', Joshua McDonald 86')

swung towards Adelaide. Nikola Milesunic, Anthony Costa, Jack Bladen and Nathan Konstandopoulos scored unanswered goals for the Reds, who ended up winning 4-2.

It's back to the drawing board for Patrick Zwaanswijk's young team, who will also be without key defender Michael Neill after he saw red for two bookable offences.

They host Melbourne Victory at Tuggerah next week, and would surely love a win before the Christmas break, but they have a huge task ahead of them to turn their season around.



Daniel Petkovski scores from an acute angle.



Lawrence Hanna (11) scores a consolation goal for the Wanderers.

Raja Casablanca stun Mineiro to reach Club World Cup final

Home-grown midfielder Mouhssine Moutouali converted an 84th minute penalty to help ensure Raja Casablanca became only the second African team in history to reach the Club World Cup final as they defeated Brazilians Atletico Mineiro 3-1 on Wednesday.

The Moroccan champions, who qualified as the host team, equal Congolese club TP Mazembe who lost the 2010 final against Inter Milan, and will now face European champions Bayern Munich in Saturday's final in Marrakech.

Bayern Munich closed in on its fifth trophy of 2013 by defeating Asian champion Guangzhou Evergrande 3-0 on Tuesday.

Franck Ribery scored in the 40th minute and Mario Mandzukic in the 44th. Mario Goetze added a goal for the Germans in the second

half. However, unlike Mazembe, Raja did not even qualify for the tournament, taking part only because they are the champions of the host country -- making their achievement all the more impressive.

Striker Mouhcine Iajour, who was on the scoresheet during the 2-1 extra-time quarter-final win over Mexicans Monterrey, hit the target to send the partisan 35,000 crowd into hysterics with the opening goal six minutes into the second-half.

However the lead was short-lived as former world player of the year Ronaldinho levelled 12 minutes later when he beat Khalid Askri in the home goal.

The game appeared to be heading towards extra-time before Rever brought down Iajour in the box, allowing Moutouali to become the hero, smashing home the ball with

just minutes remaining. Then deep into injury time, Central African international Vianney Madibe capped a glorious night in Raja's history with their third goal, to the delight of their Tunisian-born 63-year-old coach Faouzi Benzarti, who has enjoyed three spells at the helm of his national team and also won the African Champions League in 1994 with Esperance.

The Brazilians, whose 50-year-old coach Cuca is equally well travelled and working for his 20th club, had held the upper hand during a scoreless first-half that saw them manage seven shots, but only one on target.

Raja came back into the match as the half wore on and possession was equally shared by the time Spanish referee Carlos Carballo sent the two teams in at the break on level terms.



Raja Casablanca stun Mineiro to reach Club World Cup final

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Sydney FC	8	7	0	1	24	12	12	21
2 Newcastle Jets	8	5	1	2	20	11	9	16
3 Adelaide United	8	4	2	2	15	13	2	14
4 Melbourne Victory	8	4	1	3	21	13	8	13
5 Brisbane Roar	8	3	3	2	20	21	-1	12
6 AIS	8	3	2	3	20	22	-2	11
7 Wanderers FC	8	3	1	4	13	14	-1	10
8 Melbourne Heart	8	2	2	4	10	16	-6	8
9 Perth Glory	8	2	0	6	15	25	-10	6
10 CC Mariners	8	0	2	6	6	17	-11	2

Next Round

Saturday, 21 December 2013 Brisbane Roar v Newcastle Jets Goodwin Park KO 3:00 PM	Saturday, 21 December 2013 Sydney FC v AIS Cromer Park KO 2:00 PM
Saturday, 21 December 2013 Perth Glory v Adelaide United Intiga Stadium K O 10:00 PM	Sunday, 22 December 2013 Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah KO 2:30PM
Sunday, 22 December 2013 Melbourne Heart v Wanderers Epping Soccer Stadium KO 3:00PM	

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Italian Serie A



Luca Cetta

Benitez wins battle of the ex's

Napoli and Inter's six-goal showdown on Sunday was overshadowed by Rafael Benitez and Walter Mazzarri's first meeting with their former clubs.

"It is 100 per cent a lie," was Rafael Benitez' steadfast response. His team had just defeated Inter to maintain a five-point gap to fourth placed Fiorentina. But it was his Inter past which still fascinated.

Benitez was charged with taking over from Jose Mourinho after he led the Nerazzurri to an historic Treble. A story goes that Benitez ordered pictures of the Portuguese Coach to be removed from the locker room. Marco Materazzi, a staunch Mourinho supporter, claimed it was true. But here Benitez was adamant it never happened.

His six months at Inter proved tumultuous. The Spaniard started the 2010-11 campaign, but failed to see it out. "I won two trophies with Inter, that is a fact... I'd say my time at Inter was more than positive in terms of achievements."

Benitez led Inter to the European Super Cup and Club World Cup, the latter of which is when the relationship broke down.



Rafael Benitez shares the love with Walter Mazzarri

In the post-Final press conference he issued an ultimatum – bring in more signings or consider his future. A week later Benitez was gone, by 'mutual consent'.

Last term he took over at Chelsea and delivered a Europa League triumph, before joining Napoli. The man Rafa replaced would be his weekend adversary. "When I arrived at Napoli, I was told [Walter] Mazzarri, the club and the players had done great work. Now there is a different Coach, different players and the club has chosen another path."

While Benitez joined Inter at the peak of their powers, Mazzarri joined a Napoli team brimming with potential in 2009. They had struggled under Roberto Donadoni, but with Mazzarri at the helm twice qualified for the Champions League and won their first trophy since Diego Maradona, the 2011-12 Coppa Italia.

He expected a mixed reaction as he stepped on to the Stadio San Paolo turf. "How will I be welcomed? Napoli have many fans, many of them will be in the stadium. The intelligent and balanced people will be able to recognise the merits and deficiencies of each person..."

Napoli sat in third, with Mazzarri's men two places and four points adrift. The home side were dramatically eliminated from the Champions League in midweek, becoming the first side to go out with 12 points. They were on course to finish in the top two until an 87th minute Borussia Dortmund winner at Marseille. Benitez was hoping his team would forget that disappointment and continue the charge domestically. The Nerazzurri were winless in Naples since 1997, but had lost just once all term and not on their travels.

It started well for the hosts. Gonzalo Higuain pounced on Yuto Nagatomo's attempted clearance to drill a volley into the far bottom corner with less than 10 minutes on the clock.

ITALY Serie A												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games	Most recent first		
1 Juventus	16	14	1	1	35	10	+25	43	W W W W W			
2 Roma	16	11	5	0	31	7	+24	38	D W D D D			
3 Napoli	16	11	2	3	35	19	+16	35	W D W L L			
4 Fiorentina	16	9	3	4	32	20	+12	30	W L W L W			
5 Internazionale	16	7	7	2	36	21	+15	28	L D D W W			
6 Hellas Verona	16	8	2	6	27	25	+2	26	D W L L L			
7 Torino	16	5	7	4	26	23	+3	22	W W D W L			
8 Lazio	16	5	5	6	21	22	-1	20	W L L D D			
9 Genoa	16	5	5	6	17	19	-2	20	D L D D W			
10 Milan	16	4	7	5	25	25	+0	19	D D W D D			
11 Parma	16	4	7	5	22	24	-2	19	D D D W D			
12 Cagliari	16	4	7	5	17	23	-6	19	D W D D W			
13 Atalanta	16	5	3	8	17	21	-4	18	D L D L W			
14 Sampdoria	16	4	5	7	18	24	-6	17	W W D D L			
15 Udinese	16	5	2	9	15	21	-6	17	L D L W L			
16 Chievo	16	4	3	9	12	19	-7	15	L W W W D			
17 Sassuolo	16	3	5	8	17	35	-18	14	L L D W D			
18 Livorno	16	3	4	9	15	27	-12	13	L D L L L			
19 Bologna	16	2	6	8	16	31	-15	12	L D L D L			
20 Catania	16	2	4	10	10	28	-18	10	D L L L W			

Nagatomo's attempted clearance to drill a volley into the far bottom corner with less than 10 minutes on the clock.

They nearly doubled the advantage when Lorenzo Insigne rattled the woodwork from distance. Nonetheless, Inter equalised when Rodrigo Palacio dummied Fredy Guarin's cross for Esteban Cambasso – the Argentine was all alone and finished with ease.

It seemed to spur Napoli on and the first half ended frantically. First, Dries Mertens swept home a shot from outside the penalty area to finish a swift counter-attack. Then the Belgian's shot was parried by Samir Handanovic, only for Blerim Dzemaili to tap home the rebound. Inter found a way back into the contest in injury time. Rafael blocked Guarin's attempt, but Nagatomo finished from close range.

Ricky Alvarez was sent off for a second bookable offence with 18 minutes remaining and shortly

after Jose Callejon made it 4-2. It was very nearly five in stoppages, but Handanovic brilliantly saved Goran Pandev's penalty. Not to worry for the home side, they could celebrate a big victory.

For Benitez there was no hint of exacting revenge. "I have many friends at Inter. The facts speak for my history there and I have only joy in seeing my team win an important match." Not that the Gazzetta dello Sport listened, their Monday headline reading 'Benitez's vendetta'. Mazzarri, who was met by cheers and jeers, blamed referee Paolo Tagliavento. "It hurts me to lose a game we dominated, controlled and in which we attacked constantly. Napoli were always forced to deal with our style of football... Perhaps Tagliavento is unlucky with us, as we've had two defeats all season and both were with Tagliavento making many mistakes. The other loss was against Roma with a non-existent penalty. We're

unlucky with him, it keeps happening to us. Maybe Tagliavento is just out of shape."

Benitez will now prepare his side for a year-ending trip to Cagliari as they aim to keep pace with Juventus and Roma, while Inter will look to return to winning ways in the Milan Derby.

Elsewhere, Juventus made it eight wins on the trot – with eight clean sheets – as Carlos Tevez scored a hat-trick in their 4-0 victory over Sassuolo. It was the perfect way for the Bianconeri to bounce back following their shock Champions League exit against Galatasaray last week.

Roma are now five points behind following a 2-2 draw at Milan. The Giallorossi were twice pegged back by the hosts, but there was good news as Francesco Totti made his return after two months out with a thigh injury.

Spanish La Liga



Pepe Lopez

Atletico Madrid Draw Level With Barca in La Liga

An impressive 3-0 victory over Valencia in the Spanish La Liga, saw Atletico Madrid join Barcelona on 43 points, and a goal difference of positive 34. By virtue of a single goal both scored and conceded, Barcelona FC remain 1st by the smallest possible margin, otherwise Atletico Madrid would be in 1st place based on alphabetical order. Both teams have just 2 more league games to play until they face off against each other at Atleti's Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid on Sunday January 12, 2014.

Whilst the underdogs from Madrid are posing a serious threat to both Barcelona and Real Madrid this season, as both the usual front runners adjust to new coaches and injuries to key players, Atletico Madrid Coach Diego Simeone will be the last person to boast about his



Real Deal: A Diego Costa double helped Atletico Madrid to a 3-0 win over Valencia and into serious title territory.

team's La Liga chances; "No, absolutely no. Madrid and Barcelona play in a different league. This is a boring championship for the rest of the supporters who can only aspire to be third or fourth. We'll have to wait for a different distribution of television money because now the league is only of two."

Barcelona Coach Gerardo Martino knows only too well that the absence of his star player, Argentine Leo Messi equates to a significant mathematical difference in the La Liga standings had this to say after Barcelona's narrow 2-1 win at home against Villarreal;

"Losing or winning, we always

miss Messi. He's the best player in the world. With him, we would have played even better today. Preparing for the Getafe game without Messi and Neymar (suspended), we'll miss the best in the world and one who's among the top five, but we'll have to win anyway."

Meanwhile in European competition, Barcelona appear to have drawn the short straw of the 3 Spanish UEFA Champions League. Barcelona were drawn against the English Premier League's Manchester City, while Atletico Madrid got Italy's AC Milan and Real Madrid were paired up against Germany's Schalke.

Barca Coach Martino was quoted

SPAIN La Liga

SPAIN La Liga												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games	Most recent first		
1 Barcelona	16	14	1	1	44	10	+34	43	W L W W W			
2 Atlético Madrid	16	14	1	1	43	9	+34	43	W W W D W			
3 Real Madrid	16	12	2	2	46	19	+27	38	D W W W W			
4 Athletic Club	16	9	3	4	24	20	+4	30	D W W W L			
5 Villarreal	16	8	4	4	26	16	+10	28	L D W D W			
6 Real Sociedad	16	7	5	4	30	22	+8	26	W W W L W			
7 Sevilla	16	6	5	5	30	28	+2	23	D W W W L			
8 Getafe	16	7	2	7	18	22	-4	23	L W L D L			
9 Valencia	16	6	2	8	21	26	-5	20	L W L D W			
10 Granada	16	6	2	8	14	19	-5	20	W L L W W			
11 Levante	16	5	5	6	15	22	-7	20	W L L L L			
12 Espanyol	16	5	4	7	18	21	-3	19	D L W L L			
13 Málaga	16	4	5	7	18	22	-4	17	W D L L W			
14 Elche	16	4	5	7	16	22	-6	17	L L W D L			
15 Celta de Vigo	16	4	3	9	20	26	-6	15	L W L L W			
16 Real Valladolid	16	3	6	7	19	25	-6	15	W L L D L			
17 Osasuna	16	4	2	10	13	27	-14	14	D L W L L			
18 Almeria	16	3	4	9	16	32	-16	13	D L L W W			
19 Rayo Vallecano	16	4	1	11	15	38	-23	13	D L W L L			
20 Real Betis	16	2	4	10	15	35	-20	10	L D L L L			

in Spanish newspaper Marca after the draw;

"It's true that City is a very big opponent with excellent players, [but] I imagine that they won't have liked being drawn against Barça either. The objective is to get to February on good form. An opponent can be one thing in December and another in February. For us it's important to get to the round of 16 on good form."

Martino had nothing but praise for Manchester City's Coach Manuel Pellegrini; "I was always interested in Pellegrini's career, both in Europe and in South America. He is one of the best

coaches in the world. I'm delighted to be facing him."

Manchester City Coach Manuel Pellegrini had this to say after the draw on www.uefa.com;

"I think it is a beautiful game. Two very good teams, we will see in February which arrives in the better moment. All 16 teams left are the best teams in Europe – Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atlético are the same for me, Dortmund and Paris as well. It is not only about those players [Messi and Agüero]. The two teams have top players, we will see who will play better in this round of the Cham-

Latest Results

Latest Results	Next Match
Levante 2 - 1 Elche	Elche v Málaga
Osasuna 2 - 2 Real Madrid	Villarreal v Sevilla
Rayo Vallecano 0 - 2 Granada	Real Betis v Almería
Barcelona 2 - 1 Villarreal	Atlético Madrid v Levante
Málaga 1 - 0 Getafe	Granada v Real Sociedad
Almería 0 - 0 Espanyol	Espanyol v Real Valladolid
Real Sociedad 5 - 1 Real Betis	Getafe v Barcelona
Sevilla 1 - 1 Athletic Club	Athletic Club v R. Vallecana
Atlético Madrid 3 - 0 Valencia	Celta Vigo v Osasuna
Real Valladolid 3 - 0 Celta Vigo	Valencia v Real Madrid

One To Watch This Weekend...

Joint League Leaders Atletico Madrid host Levante in the Spanish La Liga, delayed coverage can be viewed on Fox Sports 1 at 12.00pm, Sunday December 22, AEST.

In the Basque Country Athletic Bilbao will host Ray Vallecano, the match can be watched LIVE on Fox Sports 2 at 5am, Monday December 23, AEST.

3rd place Real Madrid will travel to Valencia, delayed coverage of the match can be viewed Fox Sports 1 at 2pm, Monday December 23, AEST.

Joint League Leaders Barcelona will travel to Getafe, the delayed coverage of the match can be viewed Fox Sports 1 at 3.30pm, Monday December 23, AEST.

pions League, but that is in February. We must first worry about this week and Saturday. I think Barcelona will be very concerned that they have drawn us. They are not the team of two years ago. All teams in the Champions League are exactly the same. If you want to win something important, you must beat important teams. The Bayern München result has given us a lot of confidence. We are improving every day and we must continue to improve."

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CROATIA 1.HNL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	19	13	4	2	35	13	+22	43	W W D W W
2 Hajduk Split	20	10	8	2	35	18	+17	38	D D D D W
3 Rijeka	19	9	8	2	35	18	+17	35	D D W D L
4 Lokomotiva	19	10	3	6	31	25	+6	33	D W L W L
5 Split	20	8	7	5	21	17	+4	31	L D W D D
6 Istra 1961	19	7	5	7	27	26	+1	26	W D W L D
7 Slaven Koprivnica	20	3	9	8	23	27	-4	18	D D D D L
8 Zadar	20	4	5	11	15	33	-18	17	L D L D L
9 Osijek	20	2	6	12	14	41	-27	12	D L D D D
10 Hrvatski Drago...	20	1	7	12	15	33	-18	10	D L L D D

GERMANY Bundesliga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	16	14	2	0	42	8	+34	44	W W W W W
2 Bayer Leverkusen	16	12	1	3	32	15	+17	37	L W W W W
3 Borussia Dortmund	16	10	2	4	37	18	+19	32	D L W L L
4 Borussia M'gla...	16	10	2	4	33	17	+16	32	D W W W W
5 Wolfsburg	16	9	2	5	26	17	+9	29	W W D D W
6 Schalke 04	16	8	3	5	32	28	+4	27	W L W D W
7 Hertha BSC	16	7	4	5	25	19	+6	25	W W D L W
8 Augsburg	16	7	2	7	20	24	-4	23	W W D W L
9 Mainz 05	16	6	3	7	22	29	-7	21	D D L W W
10 Stuttgart	16	5	4	7	29	31	-2	19	L W L L W
11 Hoffenheim	16	4	6	6	36	37	-1	18	D W D L L
12 Hannover 96	16	5	3	8	22	29	-7	18	D L W L D
13 Hamburger SV	16	4	4	8	31	35	-4	16	L D W L D
14 Werder Bremen	16	4	4	8	21	37	-16	16	L D D L L
15 Eintracht Fran...	16	3	5	8	19	28	-9	14	W L L D L
16 Freiburg	16	2	5	9	14	30	-16	11	L L L W L
17 Nürnberg	16	0	10	6	17	33	-16	10	D D L D L
18 Eintracht Brau...	16	2	2	12	9	32	-23	8	L L L L D

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Queens Park Ra...	20	12	6	2	24	10	+14	42	W D W L W
2 Burnley	20	11	7	2	31	14	+17	40	D W D L D
3 Leicester City	20	12	3	5	32	22	+10	39	D L L W W
4 Derby County	20	11	4	5	42	26	+16	37	W W W W W
5 Reading	20	9	7	4	29	22	+7	34	W L W W D
6 Leeds United	20	10	3	7	32	23	+9	33	W D W L W
7 Nottingham Forest	20	8	8	4	29	22	+7	32	D W D L D
8 Brighton & Hov...	20	8	7	5	25	18	+7	31	W W L D W
9 Blackpool	20	8	7	5	23	20	+0	31	L L L W L
10 Ipswich Town	20	8	6	6	30	24	+6	30	D W W W L
11 Blackburn Rovers	20	7	6	7	25	24	+1	27	W D L W D
12 Huddersfield Town	20	7	5	8	25	24	+1	26	L L W W W
13 Watford	20	6	7	7	30	28	+2	25	L D D L L
14 Wigan Athletic	19	7	4	8	22	22	+0	25	W L L L L
15 Birmingham City	20	6	5	9	26	26	+0	23	W D D W D
16 Bolton Wanderers	20	5	7	8	22	26	-4	22	L W L L W
17 AFC Bournemouth	20	6	4	10	24	38	-14	22	L W L D L
18 Millwall	20	5	6	9	25	40	-15	21	L W D L W
19 Middlesbrough	20	4	8	8	30	31	-1	20	L L L W L
20 Doncaster Rovers	20	5	5	10	17	34	-17	20	L D W L L
21 Charlton Athletic	20	4	6	10	16	25	-9	18	D L L L W
22 Sheffield Wedn...	19	3	8	8	21	29	-8	17	W L W L L
23 Yeovil Town	20	4	5	11	17	27	-10	17	D D W W L
24 Barnsley	20	3	6	11	19	38	-19	15	D L W L L

Greece Super League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	16	15	1	0	48	6	+42	46	W W W W W
2 PAOK	16	11	3	2	31	15	+16	36	D W D W W
3 Atromitos	16	8	5	3	25	13	+12	29	D W W D W
4 Panathinaikos	16	8	3	5	26	15	+11	27	W L W D W
5 Asteras Tripolis	15	6	6	3	22	16	+6	24	W L W W D
6 Xanthi	16	7	3	6	22	23	-1	24	W L W D W
7 Panthrakikos	16	5	6	5	21	24	-3	21	W W D L L
8 Panaitolikos	16	5	6	5	17	14	+3	21	W L D L L
9 PAS Giannina	16	6	2	8	18	22	-4	20	L W L L L
10 Ergotelis	16	4	7	5	19	21	-2	19	D L D L L
11 OFI	16	4	6	6	14	20	-6	18	L W L W W
12 Kalloni	16	6	0	10	17	31	-14	18	L L L L W
13 Levadiakos	16	5	2	9	17	30	-13	17	L L W L W
14 Panionios	15	4	5	6	14	18	-4	17	L D D L W
15 Platania	16	3	6	7	15	22	-7	15	L W L D L
16 Apollon Smirnis	16	3	5	8	17	26	-9	14	D W D D L
17 Veria	15	3	4	8	13	26	-13	13	W L W L L
18 Aris	15	2	4	9	12	26	-14	10	L D L L L

SCOTLAND SPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	15	12	3	0	36	12	+24	39	W W W W D
2 Inverness CT	15	10	2	3	23	11	+12	32	W D W W W
3 Dundee United	16	8	5	3	33	12	+21	29	W W W W D
4 Aberdeen	16	9	2	5	24	14	+10	29	W W L L W
5 Motherwell	16	9	1	6	18	24	-6	28	W L W L W
6 St. Johnstone	15	6	3	6	22	17	+5	21	L L W W W
7 Hibernian	16	4	5	7	10	16	-6	17	L D D L L
8 St. Mirren	15	4	4	7	14	23	-9	16	L D D W W
9 Partick Thistle	15	3	5	7	13	25	-12	14	D L L L L
10 Kilmarnock	16	3	3	10	17	28	-11	12	L W L L L
11 Ross County	15	3	2	10	17	31	-14	11	L D L L L
12 Heart of Midlo...	16	3	3	10	13	27	-14	-3	L L D W L

HOLLAND Eredivisie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Vitesse	17	11	3	3	40	22	+18	36	W W W W W
2 Ajax	17	10	4	3	39	16	+23	34	W W W W W
3 Twente	17	9	6	2	40	17	+23	33	W W W W D
4 Feyenoord	17	9	3	5	33	24	+9	30	W W W L D
5 Heerenveen	17	7	5	5	37	31	+6	26	W L D W D
6 Groningen	17	6	6	5	31	30	+1	24	L L D D W
7 AZ	17	7	3	7	28	28	+0	24	L L L D D
8 Utrecht	17	7	3	7	25	32	-7	24	L W W W L
9 PSV	17	6	5	6	33	25	+8	23	W L L D L
10 PEC Zwolle	17	5	7	5	25	21	+4	22	L L D D D
11 Heracles	17	6	3	8	23	29	-6	21	W W D L L
12 Go Ahead Eagles	17	5	5	7	27	40	-13	20	L W D L L
13 NAC Breda	17	5	4	8	28	32	-4	19	L L D L W
14 Roda JC	17	4	6	7	29	39	-10	18	L L L D L
15 RKC Waalwijk	17	4	5	8	24	33	-9	17	W D D W L
16 ADO Den Haag	17	5	2	10	21	38	-17	17	L W D L L
17 Cambuur	17	4	4	9	16	25	-9	16	L D L W L
18 NEC	17	3	6	8	27	44	-17	15	W L W L L

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Leyton Orient	20	13	5	2	43	18	+25	44	D D D W L
2 Wolverhampton ...	20	13	4	3	32	13	+19	43	L L W D W
3 Brentford	20	12	4	4	30	19	+11	40	W W W D W
4 Preston North End	20	10	8	2	30	19	+11	38	D W W D W
5 Peterborough U...	20	11	3	6	30	20	+10	36	D W L L L
6 Rotherham United	20	9	7	4	33	24	+9	34	W W W D W
7 Bradford City	20	7	9	4	33	22	+11	30	D D W D D
8 Swindon Town	20	9	3	8	35	26	+9	30	L W D L W
9 Walsall	20	8	6	6	21	18	+3	30	W L D D W
10 Port Vale	20	9	3	8	30	30	+0	30	D W L W W
11 Coventry City	20	10	5	5	43	36	+7	25	D W L L D
12 Milton Keynes Dons	19	7	4	8	30	29	+1	25	W L L W W
13 Carlisle United	20	6	6	8	23	33	-10	24	W L W D D
14 Crawley Town	20	5	8	7	21	26	-5	23	D L D D D
15 Shrewsbury Town	20	5	7	8	21	23	-2	22	L W L W L
16 Oldham Athletic	19	6	4	9	23	26	-3	22	L D W W D
17 Gillingham	21	6	4	11	27	37	-10	22	L D W L L
18 Colchester United	20	4	9	7	21	30	-9	21	L L W D L
19 Sheffield United	20	5	5	10	18	27	-9	20	W D D W L
20 Tranmere Rovers	20	5	5	10	24	38	-14	20	L W L W D
21 Stevenage	20	5	3	12	21	34	-13	18	D L L W L
22 Notts County	21	5	2	14	25	34	-9	17	W L D L L
23 Crewe Alexandra	20	4	5	11	17	42	-25	17	D W L L L
24 Bristol City	20	2	9	9	27	34	-7	15	L L D L D

France Ligue 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	18	13	4	1	42	11	+31	43	W W L W W
2 Monaco	18	12	5	1	30	11	+19	41	W W W W W
3 Lille	18	12	3	3	20	6	+14	39	W L W W W
4 Bordeaux	18	8	6	4	25	19	+6	30	W W W W D
5 Nantes	18	9	2	7	23	15	+8	29	L W W L L
6 Olympique Mars...	18	8	4	6	25	18	+7	28	D L L W W
7 Saint-Etienne	17	8	3	6	25	20	+5	27	W L W W L
8 Lorient	18	8	2	8	24	24	+0	26	W W W W W
9 Reims	18	6	8	4	19	20	-1	26	D W L L L
10 Olympique Lyonnai	18	6	6	6	26	25	+1	24	D W D L D
11 Toulouse	18	6	6	6	20	24	-4	24	W D D W L
12 Guingamp	18	6	5	7	19	19	+0	23	L D L W L
13 Bastia	18	6	5	7	21	26	-5	23	L L D W D
14 Rennes	18	5	6	7	21	22	-1	21	L L W L D
15 Nice	18	6	2	10	15	24	-9	20	W L L L L
16 Evian TG	17	5	5	7	18	28	-10	20	D W L L D
17 Montpellier	18	2	10	6	18	24	-6	16	L D L L D
18 Valenciennes	18	2	5	11	15	27	-12	11	L D L D L
19 Ajaccio	18	1	6	11	12	30	-18	9	L D L L L
20 Sochaux	18	1	5	12	13	38	-25	8	L L L L D

European Results**THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

GW will still be out next week.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

GOAL! WEEKLY

From all of us at Goal! Weekly, we'd like to wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to all our readers, sponsors, advertisers and contributors for your continued support. Stay safe and we hope you kick plenty of goals in 2014!

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